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**MR. WM. L. DOBELL WITH REPERTOIRE ANGLAISE.**  
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May 3, Rosecommon (3 nights). May 7, Tullamore (3 nights). Per. Christie House, Saddle Hill, Bristol.

**ERNEST DOTTRIDGE'S**  
Enterprises.  
Including Arthur White.  
The biggest success touring.  
Owing to the wonderful business I have decided to run it through the Christmas Season.  
Funnier than any Pantomime.  
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Powerful Cast & Brilliant Company of Children.

The celebrated CHILDREN'S SCENE, stronger than ever and still the greatest drawing novelty travelling.

Always Vacancies for Clever Children.

VACANT: May 14, 21; June 4, 11, 18, 25; Sept. 3, 10; Oct. 4, 11; Dec. 3, 10; and various on.

This week, T. R. ALDERSHOT.

Next week, NEW, SALISBURY.

## THE LOVE KISS

An Entirely New Intense Domestic Drama.  
By Frank Liston.

Powerful Cast, Magnificently Mounted.

VACANT: June 18, 25, Aug. 20, 27, Sept. 3, 10, Oct. 22, Nov. 5, 12, Dec. 3, 10, and various on.

This week, T. R. JARROW-ON-TYNE.

Next week, T. R. SOUTH SHIELDS.

## G. CARLTON WALLACE'S PLAYS.

New Production, Autumn.

## THE KISS OF DELILAH

The Amazing Marriage.  
The Enemy in Our Midst.  
The Apple of Eden.  
The Village Blacksmith.  
The Woman Conquers.  
The Love that Women Desire.  
A Thief in the Night.

These highly successful Plays, with special Pictorial printing, may be booked by approved Managers for Stock.

Can arrange personal stock seasons.  
Address all Communications—  
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Will tour the most successful play  
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IN

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Weeks, three nights, or special matinees can be arranged. Address, LEIGH LOVEL, c/o "The Era."

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"The Millionaire and the Woman," by Chas. Darrell, Vac. July, &c.

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Address, The Play-House, Wakefield.

## D'O'LY CARTE

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COURT THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.

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**MISS ETHEL BRACEWELL.**  
Ethel Standish, in "The Barton Mystery" Co. At liberty May 12. This, Harrogate (3), Scarborough (3); next, G. Hull.

**MISS LUCY BRENNAN.**  
Character Comedienne.  
April 30, Chelsea Palace, 7.15 and 10.10

All coms.,  
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**MISS MARION FAWCETT.**  
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(Mrs. John F. Ash).  
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**MISS MOLLY GILMOUR.**  
Solo Dancer.  
The Impromptu, Bournemouth.  
Address letters: c/o "The Era."

**MISS MARY GRIFFITHS (Mrs. Arthur Layle),** as Nanny Webster, "The Little Minister," disengaged May 12. This week, Grand, Southampton; next, T.R., Birmingham.

**MRS. E. HILL-MITCHELSON.**  
21, Pemberton-gardens, Highgate, N.

**MRS. WALTER HOWARD**  
(Miss Agnes Chesson).  
97, Alfrede-avenue, Chiswick, W. 4.

**MISS ELMIE KEMP.**  
Valentine, "Outcast" Co. Diseng. May 7. This, Blackpool, next, 2, Carr-place, Leeds. Perm. address, 67, Binfield-road, Capham-road, S.W. 4.

**MISS HILDA MAAS, Prin.**  
Mezzo, Lt. Com., Juv. good company only. Dis. 11, Hollywood-rd., S. Kensington, S.W.

**MISS HETTY MARRIOTT.**  
Comedy, Character, Pathos. Liberty few weeks, May 14. This and next, T.R., Stratford.

**MISS CLARA REID**  
Supporting Fred Sinclair in "Kitty's Hero." P.A., 227, High-rd., Kibbura. John Power. Active Service, East Africa.

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Disengaged, Lead or Heavies.  
16, Shawfield-street, Chelsea, S.W. 3.

**MR. CHARLES ALDRED.** At liberty May 7. P. Parts or Mantr. T.R., Birmingham; next, 17, Granleigh-road, Leytonstone.

**MR. J. HASTINGS BATSON.**  
"The G.O.M. of Filmland. If he were in America would not be left to rust." "Evening News," April 13, 1917. C/o "The Era," or A.A., 32, Regent-street.

**MR. CHARLES B. BEDELLS.**  
Aristocratic and Comedy Parts. At liberty May 7. "A Kiss for Cinderella." This week, T.R., York.

**MR. KENNETH BLACK.** Dis. Character parts, Termination 9 months' tour with "Silk Stockings." 106, Beaufort-street, S.W. 3.

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Advises on Insurance. Write me. 80, Spenser-avenue, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.

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Canterbury Theatre of Varieties, S.E.

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L. Com. Char. Aria. Old Men. Legitimate. Town. Dis. Putney Heath, S.W.

**MR. BASIL DYNE.**  
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Sir Everard, "The Barton Mystery." An example of the best in histrionic art.—Croydon Times.

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Disengaged. Can arrange Stock Seasons if required. 14, Ilfey-road, Hammer-smith.

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Ingos ("Garrick"). This, Now T. Cardiff. Next, Cheltenham.

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"Potash and Perlmutter" Tour.  
Address, 50, Pelham-road, Wimbledon, S.W.

**MR. JOHN HARRISON.**  
At liberty.  
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**MR. J. COURT HARVARD.**  
Character, Comedy. Old Men, concluded 19 weeks with "The Big Show." Disengaged. King's Theatre, Portsmouth.

**MR. S. HERBERT HUMBER.**  
Star Lead, resigning with—"The Rosary." Dis. May 14. 21, Commercial-street, Huddersfield.

**MR. EDMUND KENNEDY.**  
Disengaged May 7. Completing 300th performance of Dr. Napier (Lead), in "Case of Lady Camber," Hyacinth (Lead), in "Angel in the House."  
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"Mr. R. H. Lace's Biondello is perfect." Arrangements complete. A. A.

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Leads, Heavies, &c.

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Re Nita Rae's plays.  
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May 7. "Hush," Court Theatre, S.W.

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At liberty, May 7. 22, Cleveland-mansions, Highgate-road, N.W. 5.

**MR. ARCHIE SELWYN.**  
"Jerry" Co. This week, T.R., Cambridge; next, Grand T., Southampton.

**MR. E. W. THOMAS** and MISS AGNES KNIGHTS, P. Gardens, Folkestone. At liberty end of July. P. A., 7, Grafton-sq., Clapham Common.

**MR. GEORGE TRAILL.**  
Dis. Char. Parts or Old Men.  
27, Charrington-street, N.W. 1.

**MR. LEONARD TREND.**  
Keep your eye on. At lib. May 5 for Revue (singing juv.) This, "K." South-sea. P.A., 6, Lanvane-road, London, S.E.

**MR. FREDERICK VICTOR.**  
Sveinall, "Tribby."  
Repertory Theatre, Plymouth.

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FRANK ASHWORTH, General Manager.  
Tivoli, Manchester.

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Under New Management.

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## GOOD REVUES.

## COMEDIES.

## FIRST-CLASS DRAMAS.

Refer this week, MATT MILROSE, with "PEKIN TO PARIS."

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NO. 1

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Onwards (with exceptions).

Companies Booked at Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Chester, &c., can have Shrewsbury to proceed or follow.

Terms, full particulars to—

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MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-class Companies for KENNINGTON THEATRE, S.E. May 21, June 4, 11, 18, 25, on.

COUNTY THEATRE, READING. June 18, 25, July 2, Aug. 20, Sept. 3, 10, on.

OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER. Aug. 13, 20, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, Nov. 5, on.

ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER. July 9, Sept. 17, Oct. 22, 29, on.

HUDDERSFIELD. May 14, 21, 28, Aug. 6, 13, 20, on. Good Revues, Twice Nightly.

OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON. The Opera House is the only building in Northampton holding a Dramatic Licence. May 28, July 2, 9, Aug. 6, 27, Sept. 17, on.

THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER. May 28, June 25, July 2, 9, on.

Add., MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, WOOLWICH. Lessee and Manager, Jules Richoux.

WANTED, First-class Attractions only. W. June 18 (7), July 2 (7), Aug. 6 (7), 13, 27, Oct. 1, 22, Nov. 12, Dec. 17, Feb. 4, 1



## COMPANIES WANTED.

H. W. ROWLAND'S BOOKING  
CIRCUIT.  
WANTED. High-class Attractions.  
DEVONSHIRE-PARK THEATRE,  
NASTBOURNE.  
May 7 (3), June 11 (3), 25, July 9, 23.  
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.  
Aug. 30.  
PLEASURE GARDENS T. FOLKESTONE.  
Late autumn dates only. 1917.  
H. W. ROWLAND'S AGENCY,  
28, Wingate-road, Havenscourt Park, W. C.  
Phone, Hammer-smith 452.  
Wires, "Topobill, Hammer, London."  
ROMLEY THEATRE AND O.H.,  
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.  
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.  
WANTED. Wanted. Wanted.  
First-class Attractions (Musical), for  
the Autumn. Applications re dates to  
HUGH ROBERTSON, T.R., Jarro.

## THEATRES WANTED.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."  
WANTED, for this phenomenal attraction,  
weeks of July 15 and Aug. 20.  
Greatest success now touring.

On its 54th visit to T.R., Birmingham, re-  
cently, it broke all previous records, and on  
Monday and Tuesday alone played to the  
enormous sum of £206 15s. 6d.

Write,  
W. W. KELLY,  
New T.R., Birkenhead.

Wires to  
"Hustler, Birkenhead."

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."  
25th year. A wonderful tour with a  
wonderful play.

Big Company. B's Specialties.  
Special Scenery and Pictorials.

WANTED. June 4 and 11 (1).  
CHARLES HARRINGTON, Grand,  
Nottingham, this week; Ashton next.

WANTED. Known, Special or Stock  
Company, supplied at short notice  
in farce, comedy, or drama. WEA-  
THERSBY'S AGENCY, 3, Bedford-st.,  
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MR. FRANK FENTON.  
"MR. HOUSE IN ORDER."  
WANTED. Known, no vacancies until  
Autumn, Aug. 6, on.

FRANK FENTON, Prince's T., Manchester.  
George Gordon and Grace Warner's Co.  
"Watch the Box." Revue.  
10th month of Tour. 2nd Edition.

WANTED. May 7, 14, various.  
GEORGE GORDON,  
Empire, Staveley, Derby.

"ANN" (5th year) and  
"BEECHAM" (2nd year).  
WANTED. May 23, July 16, 23, Aug. 13.  
90. HALDANE CRICHTON,  
Empire, Penze.

WANTED. Monday next. Also May 14  
(precede Dalston), for the Greatest  
Comedy of the day.

"LEND ME YOUR HUSBAND."  
Another big success at Norwich. Refer  
Mr. Furnival, who has offered a return  
date. Always the same. Why?

Because the piece is without rival, and the  
company excellently headed by  
MISS STELLA E. RAY  
(The Ally Girl).

Whit week still going.

Wires, BENTLEY,  
Palladium, Littlehampton.

"MONTY'S FLAPPER."  
J. P. Mitchell's Company.

WANTED. May 21, Aug. 13.  
WIRE  
HALDANE CRICHTON, Manager,  
Empire, Penze.

"THE VICAR'S SIN."  
WANTED. May 28. Wanted. May 28.  
30 Regent. 20 People. 20 People.  
24 years' continual success, returns every-  
where. A company of recognized per-  
formers. Refer anywhere played during  
my 24 years.

Note.—Zah's Agency have no authority to  
select this show in Wales or elsewhere.  
ROSSLYN, Empire, New Telegar.

"Keep the Home Fires Burning."  
WANTED. Big Theatres.

May 7 (South), May 28.  
May 7 (South), May 28.  
May 7 (South), May 28.  
and The Dramatic Success of the Year.  
Two companies touring.

Wires, HARRY FOXWELL, Wires,  
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MEERS, RAVENSCROFT & WRIGHT'S CO.  
"THE BRIDE OF THE RATTLEFIELD."  
"THE UNEXPECTED WIFE."  
Money turned away last week at every  
house at Globe, Consett.

WANTED. For May 14, 28. This and  
next, WRIGHT, T. Royal, Crook.

"ALL-OF-A-SUDDEN PEGGY."  
WANTED. May 14 and 21 (precede  
Bradford), June 25 (7), July 23  
(South), 30 (3).

"OUTCAST."  
Wanted. May 28 (between Bradford and  
Bristol), June 18 (3), precede Oxford,  
August Bank Holiday.

Wanted. May 28 (follow Harrogate),  
June 4 and on.

RUSSELL, 5, Garrick-street, W.C.

WANTED,  
UNEXPECTEDLY VACANT,  
MAY 28 for

The entirely new Musical Comedy Revue

"Inspect Me"

(LATE "NOT SO DUSTY").

Full Star Cast, including  
ANDY CLARK,  
SISTERS SYLVESTER,  
ROB DOUGLAS,  
AND JASPER SNOWBALL.

Managers, "Inspect" this week,  
Haggar's, Llanelli.

Sure Box Office Attraction.

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Miss Edith Panting presents  
"JENNY OMROYD  
OF OLDHAM."  
The Woman of To-morrow.  
The Laughing Success of the Century.  
WANTED. May 22, near Con-  
Theatre, Bedford, and O.H., Dudley.  
Write, BAILEY,  
This: Pavilion, Weymouth.  
Next, T.R., Worthing.

J. FORBES KNOWLES REP. CO.  
"THE GAYEST OF THE GAY."  
"DAVID GARRICK"  
"EAST LYNNE," "MOTHS," &c.  
WANTED. June 4, 11, Aug. 6, and on.  
Wanted. Good Theatre for Stock.  
T.R., Stratford, London, B. (2 weeks).  
10th visit.

J. C. CARLILE'S Company in  
Mrs. F. G. Kington's Recognised  
Success  
"BRAVE WOMEN WHO WAIT,"  
or  
The Matrimonial Girl's Love Story.  
WANTED. Wanted. May 28 (7).  
June 4 and 11 (1).  
June 25 and July 2.  
Reply, Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham.

"ALL ABOARD."  
The Record Revue.

WANTED. MAY 28, JUNE 11,  
South.  
July 9 (7), 16, South.  
July 23, 30, Aug. 6, Midlands.

Coma, VENTOM SWIFT,  
1, Wincup-grove, Canterbury.

M. Norman's Laughing Revue,  
"NOT IN THESE."

Company of recognised artists—Evelyn  
Cole, Alice Burns, Eva Taylor, Dolly Seate  
and Gerrie Bruce, Neil McNeil, George  
King, and Phil Herman.

Full Chorus. The Munion Girls. The  
Mingheira Troupe of Dancers.

WANTED. Monday and May 14.  
Wires, NORMAN, Victoria Theatre,  
Hart's Hill, Stoke-on-Trent.

"BLACK SHEEP OF THE FAMILY."  
"BLACK SHEEP OF THE FAMILY."  
WANTED. Wanted. Wanted.

May 7, 7, 7.  
May 7, 7, 7.  
May 7, 7, 7.  
In or near London.

Wires, WIRE,  
ARTHUR HINTON,  
7, Burleigh-manions,  
Charing Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED. For LINTON's great Revue,  
"IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT," im-  
mediate and summer dates. 15 people.  
Everything carried. Two powerful Special-  
ties, including English Concertina Band.  
The World's Greatest Concertina Act.  
Played returns this season at Pictorials.  
Longton, and booked return 2 weeks. Refer  
Manager, J. Grace, Esq. Also played 2  
weeks, Grand, Fallowfield, Manchester.  
Refer Fred Morley, Esq. Chorus, LIT-  
TON, 3 and 4, High-street, Deritend, Bir-  
mingham.

Vin and McKenzie's Revue,  
"PRETTY DARLINGS."  
"PRETTY DARLINGS."  
Set touring in successive times.  
Still survival of the fittest.

WANTED. May 21 and 28 between  
Wigan and Granton.

Wires, "Victorian, London." Letters to  
JAMES J. WELCH, 142, Long Acre, W.C.

Miss Edith St. Claire's Enterprises.

"SHUSH."

A Trip to the Isle of Man.

One of the biggest laughing hits touring.  
A tried success.

103rd week of tour without a week out.  
A strong cast of experienced artists and  
every one a success.

WANTED. First-class Theatre or  
Music Hall for the following dates:  
May 28, May 28, May 28,  
June 4, 11, 18, 25,  
July 9.

AE London or South.  
Past Booking Autumn.

All communications, Hippo, Maidenhead.  
Next week, Theatre Royal, Guildford.

WANTED. May 14, onwards, for the  
New Musical Comedy Revue  
entitled "Merry Maryland."

In Five Scenes. Cast of 25 All-Star  
Artists. Plenty of Mirth, Music, and  
good Dancing. Part from SECRETARY,  
Messrs. Play's, Gamage-builds, Holborn,  
E.C.

E. Hill-Mitchell's Latest Success,  
"BIRTH OF CONVICT 22."

WANTED. Wanted. May 21 and 28.  
Reply to  
E. HILL-MITCHELSON, 142, Long Acre,  
W.C.

WANTED. May 14, and various dates  
onward, to follow Southport, for  
"SAY WHEN?"

The Revue Revue, featuring  
Harrie Parn, Denby and Dew, Elsie May,  
Phyllis Rodman, Rex, Marie, &c. &c.  
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"WHAT HAPPENED TO JONES."  
WANTED. May 7, onward (between  
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WANTED. May 28, on (follow Read-  
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WANTED. May 7, on (follow Laton).  
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A Few Dates  
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Plays one of the principal parts in the first scene like a human being.

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The police make a raid on a theatre, the company are summoned  
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NOTE.—I prefer my Touring Companies to play 2, 3, or 4 weeks in each  
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ENORMOUS SUCCESS.

Touring managers and others, with first-class plays to let, please send  
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Direct from its Phenomenal Success at  
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WANTED, first-class Theatres and  
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Managers are requested to write  
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One of the most successful plays on tour.

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TREMEUNDOUS SUCCESS.

Beautiful Scenery and Costumes.

This Week, Borough, Stratford, E.

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This Week, Court, Warrington.

Next Week, Opera House, St. Helens.

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## THE STRANGE ADVENTURES OF MISS BROWN.

A screamingly funny farce.

VACANT, May 14, follow  
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VACANT June 4 and 18.

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(Repertoire of four plays).

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## THE STANLEY CARLTON COMPANIES.

## "The White Slaves of London,"

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NINTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF TOUR.

The Drama that takes MORE MONEY than  
ANY OTHER DRAMA ON TOUR.

Gross weekly from £250 to £500.

VACANT MAY 28—Wire for May 28.

Must be big theatre that can hold money, and  
sharing terms only.

Many thanks to Mr. Bode for Offer of  
Northampton.

Only VACANT DATES this year:—

MAY 28, between Brighton and Sheffield,  
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Only played to £370 at Metropole, Glasgow.

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JUNE 18 and 25, precede Sheffield,  
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Produced 1915, still touring, and known by  
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week.

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AN ENTIRELY NEW DRAMA.  
PRODUCTION AUGUST 6.

Wire for April 28, a big Theatre that  
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Address THIS WEEK:—

STANLEY CARLTON,  
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WANTED. Character Lady, special  
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LODGE-PERCY, Brixton Theatre, S.W.  
The C. WATSON MILL REPERTORY CO.  
WANTED, rehearse shortly, exception-  
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ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, to Agents and others, Engt. by Soprano; good voice, exp.; London prefer; Opera, Mus. Comedy, or Mus. Act. Offers, Box 1,079, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement by TALBERTO (unpublished), known as Second Comedian; good feeder, not afraid of work, 19, Captham-road, London.

CONCERT PARTIES AND ENTERTAINERS WANTED.

PAVILION, TORQUAY.  
WANTED, First-class Concert Party for June 18 or 25, week. Write lowest terms and particulars, to  
CHARLES G. PRICE, Manager.

WANTED, Concert Party Artists. All particular, MANAGER, 40, Dorset-gardens, Brighton.

WANTED, Concert Artists, all lines (ladies only); preference given to soldiers' and sailors' wives or widows; long tour; fully booked. Terms, &c., WILLIAMS, Theatre Royal, Guildford.

WANTED, 6 first-class Concert Party Comedians, immediately.  
Call or write.  
HARRY BENNETT'S AGENCY,  
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Rehearse June 19; open June 25.  
Ten weeks, Ten weeks,  
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WANTED, High-class Artists of every description; must have good rep. move in Concerts, &c.

Baritone, Soprano, Light Comedian, Comedienne, &c. Specialties write.

Indoors when wet.

LOW COMEDIAN (to produce).

Good price paid for First-class Man; must be clean and thoroughly competent.

State where can be seen.

Full parties, rep., salary, &c., to

HERBERT ROGERS,  
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CONCERT PARTIES AND ENTERTAINERS WANTS.

THE ODDITIES.

WANTED, May 21 and 28.  
One of the best Concert Parties on the road. All Good.

Six Ladies.  
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Costume Concert Party.  
Versatile Artists.

WANTED, Monday next, May 7, also 14, between Midlands and Glasgow. Shares with guarantee or certainty. Wire, BEALE, 199, Kennington-rd., London, S.E.

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WANTED, Known, Cinema or Stage Beginners, write for an appointment. KING, Flat 1, 3, Cranworth-gdns, Brixton.

AMATEURS, PUPILS, ETC., WANTED.

WANTED, Known, Private Lessons or Class Lessons for Children, Young Ladies, and Adults; terms moderate; a good and careful training given. Call or write, Miss E. BARNES, 9, Great Newport-st., London, W.C. Tel. 427 Gerrard.

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WANTED, Smart, Reliable, Energetic Manager, to Varieties and Drama; open at once. Photo, stating age, terms, and refs., BAINES, 9, John-st., Bristol.

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WANTED, Hustling Manager, to open Monday, May 21, with cinema experience, for Newcastle-on-Tyne; one who understands circuit methods to work to instructions; must supply fidelity bond. Full particulars, stating age, salary, &c., by letter only, to Market Manager, C. C. C. 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, Piccadilly-circus, London, W. 1.

WANTED, Operator Electrician, open Monday, May 7, portable cinema show at Hereford. Permanent for a few months. State terms first letter; must be low; only small concern, but comfortable situation. W. BIDDALL, 128, High-street, Watford, Herts.

WANTED, a good Operator, knowledge of Crosley gas engine; Call Monday next or May 14; a good comfortable shop for a reliable man (no handle turning); when writing, please understand that this is not a war building, neither is it a portable or school or church, but an up-to-date cinema with the latest and best equipment. Send terms (no offers 7 nights weekly (no matinees), if married wife can check, FRED BOULTON, Palace, Bordon, Hants.

Theatre Royal, Blackburn.  
Palace Theatre, Rochdale.

WANTED, Companies, next week. OTTO C. CULLING, Bulls Cot., East Sheen, S.W. 11.

WANTED, Carpenter, not less than 5 ft. 7 in. Play small parts. Rehearse Wishaw, N.B., immediately. Salary £2 10s. Wire or write, HARRY FOXWELL, 268, Lytham-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, Billposter and good all-round Stage Hand, comfortable and permanent position offered to willing man, with good references. Age, height, when disengaged, and salary required. ERNEST WHEELER, Pavilion Theatre, Weymouth.

WANTED, experienced Billposter; used to ladder work; exempt from military service; good wages to a good man. Apply, with references and wages required, MANAGER, Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield.

WANTED, Smart, Competent Operator and Electrician; comfortable, permanent shop for the right man.

MARK LORNE,  
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WANTED IMMEDIATELY, for Bostock's Menagerie, steady Driver for 5-horse Burrell engine; good salary and sleeping accommodation. Address, E. H. BOSTOCK, Zoo Buildings, Glasgow. Also Wanted, a good steerer.

WANTED, Carpenter and Baggage. Box 1,090, "The Era."

WANTED, Reliable Man; steady engagement; play small parts and assist generally. FRASER, 90, Gower-st., W.C.

WANTED, Known, ALBERT GREENE, of Grossmith and Laurillard's, and George Edwards' companies, disengaged for advance or business management, or would undertake resident work. 16, Kenton-street, Russell-square, W.C.

WANTED, Eng. by J. E. TURNER, Stage Carpenter (worker); dia. May 6, This, Royal, Yarmouth; next, 199, High-st., Shoreham.

WANTED, Known, Energetic Man, 34, ineligible, seeks Post, Stage Carpenter or similar job; no experience, but quick and willing to learn. Box 1,091, "The Era."

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WANTED, presently, Lady Leader (also Cellist), fully experienced, to play solos and lead quartet; high-class hotel out of town; permanent. Box 1,073, "The Era."

WANTED, for County Theatre, Shrewsbury, exp. Leader, lady; revues, dramas, &c.; used to standard works and Tavan arrangements; also MSS. M. D., 16, Cotton-crescent, Shrewsbury.

WANTED, First-class Musical Director (Piano), Terms, refs., &c., to Miss EDITH ST. CLAIRE, Hippo., Maidenhead; next week, Theatre Royal, Guildford.

WANTED, Musical Director, piano, baten; able arrange. Box 1,088, "The Era."

WANTED, lady Violinist (leader), to deputise; restaurant, 3 1/2 hours daily; tea and supper; no Sundays. Box 1,077, "The Era."

WANTED, Violinist Leader, Lady or Gent., Orchestral Pianist, 2 Organists, evenings only. Call Friday, 11.30 a.m., Corner Cinema, Seven Sisters-road, Tottenham. No letters.

WANTED, Known, ABBOTT'S Disengaged, Ladies and Gentlemen, Pianist for evenings; Relief Pianist for afternoons; several Violinists, two Cellists. 47, Uxbridge-road, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, First Violin (Leader); also Relief Pianist; audition essential. Call or write, MUSICAL DIRECTOR, Scala Cinema, Croydon.

WANTED, immediately, good Violinist-Leader, experienced high-class pictures, for Lancashire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, &c. Write or state age, experience, and salary required. WINIFRED DONALD, L.R.A.M., Midland Counties Orchestra Supply, 144, Harlington-road, Grantham.

WANTED, First Violin, for both Wisbech and Ramsgate; open at once; lady preferred, used to pictures and variety. Apply, H. BANCROFT, Hippodrome, Wisbech.

WANTED, 1st Violin and Trombone, exp. in Variety, A.M.U. Terms, Permanency. Violin open at once, Trombone May 14. PARS, to T. HULLEY, M.D., Macnaghten Vaudeville Circuit, Hippo., Warrington.

WANTED, only thoroughly experienced. Reputable; also Pianist; good London restaurant; permanency. Box 1,074, "The Era."

WANTED, Violinist, N.W. Cinema; evenings only, no Sundays. Call, Thursday morning, 21, Kiburn-rg., N.W.

WANTED, first-class Violinist, good reader; used to classics; lady or gent.; continuous show. State lowest terms to MUSICAL DIRECTOR, Tower Picture Palace, Hull.

WANTED, Known, required, Smart Amateur Violinist; ditto Cellist; for Refined Concert Party, London. Address, "Entertainment," Box 1,043, "The Era."

WANTED, two Violinists for Dance Music. ABBOTT'S AGENCY, 47, Uxbridge-road, Shepherd's Bush.

DE WOLFE'S, 157, Warden-street, W. 1. Phone, Gerard, 3,623.

WANTED, Known, this week's vacancies: Hamersmith district, Violinists, Cellists, Bassists, Pianist (orchestral and solo), and Harmonium Players. Hackney district, Violinist and Cellist. Kilburn district, Cellist and Pianist. Provinces, all instruments. Ladies and gentlemen, please apply personally any morning this week, except Thursday, to the above address.

WANTED, immediately, Lady Cornet (solo). Terms, wire or write, WINIFRED DONALD, L.R.A.M., 144, Harlington-rd., Grantham.

WANTED, Lady Cornet and Drummer, for long seaside engagement. Apply, Box 1,078, "The Era."

WANTED, First Cornet, Lady or Gent. May 26 to Sept. 14, twice daily, six days. Refs., age, terms, J. H. ROWE, Mus. D., Municipal Orch., Aberystwyth.

WANTED, for summer, Cornets, Cellists, Pianists, &c. Full particulars, photos, ROSE VALLY, 8, Highwood-road, Holloway, N. 19.

WANTED, at once, for Glasgow Coliseum, Second Cornet. Must be experienced in high-class Varieties. (A.M.U.) Write, enclosing copies references, to N. P. Moss' Empires, Ltd., Cranbourn-mansions, W.C. 2.

WANTED, Wanted, Double Bass, Age &c. terms, references, WALTER O'SULLIVAN, Grand Theatre, Luton.

WANTED, competent Euphonium and Trombone; ineligible for Army; salary 40s., with opportunity to augment. Address, ISAAC PERRY, Leader, Bostock's Menagerie, Hexham, Thursday; Newburn-on-Tyne, Friday; Benwell-on-Tyne, Friday.

WANTED, for season, May 27, Sept. 30, for Vic. Pier, Blackpool, 2nd Euph., Trom. Flute and Pic. D. Drama; also Ac. Piano and Harmonium, Bombardier, GRAMER-SUCKLEY, Empire, Swansea.

WANTED, Lady Cellist, 16 miles out of town; also Lady or Gentleman Cornet Player at Lowestoft; immediate engagement. MRS. MAY WALTER, 3, Maccofield-street, W.

WANTED, good Lady Cellist, for London restaurant. Apply by letter only to FLORENCE CRAISTER, Cabin, Piccadilly, W. 1.

WANTED, Lady Cellist and Pianist; Midland health resort, May 26 to Sept. 30. M. D. Wyngate, Gt. Malvern.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, lady Cellist, for Café, Midlands; 4 hours daily; to start April 21 or 28. Also Leader for Café, 5 hours daily, North of England, April 16. No Sunday work in either case. Apply, QUEENIE HOWARD, 8, Churchfield-road, East Acton, W. 3.

WANTED, good Cellist, lady pref., for high-class cinema. Apply, LYELL SAVA, Musical Directress, Palladium, King's-road, Brighton.

WANTED, experienced Cellist, for Sunday evenings; either sex. Call after 2.30. The Palladium, Balham, S.W.

WANTED, open immediately, Cellist, for Tooting cinema, also Violinist and Cellist for cinema and café. Call today (Wednesday), 2 to 6.30, or write, 44, Telford-avenue, Streatham Hill, S.W. 2.

WANTED, Principal, Second Violin, 42.2s. 6d. weekly; also a Second Violin at 23.7s. 6d. weekly. Apply, LYELL TAYLER, Musical Orchestra, Brighton.

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WANTED, at once, good Oboe, for Hastings Municipal Orchestra; must be experienced and capable; high pitch. Apply, with references, stating salary required, to HIRAM HENTON, 66, Church-st., St. Leonard-on-Sea.

WANTED, Pianist, Vocalist preferred, with portable harmonium, harp, or guitar; Seaside; terms, shares. MME. CAMILLA, G.P.O., Eversholt-street, Mornington-crescent, N.W.

WANTED, Relief Pianist, ABBOTT'S AGENCY, 47, Uxbridge-road, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, relief Pianist, combine men) for Cinema (bring instrs. Apply between 11 and 12, CAICEDO, 25, Oxendon-street, Haymarket.

WANTED, for Premier Cinema, Earlsfield, S.W., good Picture Pianist; no orchestra. Call after 3 any day. Also Relief Wanted.

DE WOLFE, 157, Warden-street, W. 1. Phone, Gerard, 3,623.

WANTED, for North London Cinema Theatre, Gentlemen only apply to the above address. Good salary to suitable applicant.

WANTED, for London, immediately. Banjoists. Apply, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 152, Kennington Park-rd., Wednesday and Thursday.

DE WOLFE'S AGENCY, 157, Warden-street, W. 1. Phone, Gerard, 3,623.

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen, Musicians, to Register for Deputising in London first-class Cinema Theatres. Apply in writing, giving particulars of Musical experience, to the above address. Good salary to suitable applicant.

WANTED, immediately, for Yorkshire and adjoining Counties, summer season, also for Blackpool, Lady Musicians, as under:—Good Violinists, Cellists, Pianists, Organists, Basses, Drummers, Cornetists, Flautists. Other vacancies. Wire or write, WINIFRED DONALD, L.R.A.M., Midland Counties Orchestra Supply, 144, Harlington-road, Grantham.

WANTED, Known, First-class Orchestras and Musicians Vacant. Several good Trios and Quartettes for Pictures, Hotels, or Cafés Vacant. Also one larger Orchestra for summer season, and a well-known Military Band. Highest references to Managers who wish to become leaders. For particulars of above and other Musicians vacant, apply

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WANTED, Musicians to register for Opera, Theatre, hotel, restaurant and cinema. First-class engagements. Coms. to SECRETARY, 13, Birlington-road, Kilburn, N.W. 6.

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WANTED, immediately, Lady Instrumentalist, for large orchestra; seaside engagement; audition Thursday, 12.1 p.m. CHANDOS HALL, Maiden-lane, Strand.

WINTER GARDENS, BLACKPOOL.

WANTED, First-class Musicians (lady or gentleman), Violin, Viola, Oboe, Flute, Clarinet, Horn, Cornet, Pianist, for Whitstable, from May 28 to June 2, and for Season from June 30 to Sept. 2 (flat pitch). Only steady and competent instrumentalists need apply. Applications, stating experience, with references and salary required for one or two performances, to be sent to Mr. JNO. R. HUDDLESTONE, General Manager, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

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Under the direction of MAURICE PIENA. WANTED, Instrumentalists, including Pianists and Organists, desirous of gaining experience in Orchestral Playing, are invited to join above orchestra. Engagements when proficient. All particulars from SECRETARY, 13, Birlington-road, Kilburn, N.W. 6. Phone, Hampstead 7246.

WANTED, good Quadrille Musicians, 2 or 3 evenings a week, ladies or gentlemen. W. F. HURDALL, 84, Blackfriars-road.

Music on Hire.

WANTED, Musical Directors and Managers to apply at once to the London Music Lending Library. Overtures, Selections, Suites, Lullies, Popular Music. Music selected to suit all films, 200 testimonials. Send synopsis and 1s. for specimen parcel. The largest and best library in the world. ALGERNON CLARKE, Proprietor, 28, Louisa-road, Barnes, London, S.W. 13.

WANTED

A Smart, First-Class Pianist for Music Hall Act.

Must be a Good Player. Permanency.

Discharged Soldier, or one over Military age.

State age, height, married or single and Permanent Address to:—

PIANOLO, Box 1086, "The Era."

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WANTED, Musical Directors to write for particulars of EASTON'S MUSIC LENDING LIBRARY; very moderate terms. "Elmwood," Atkins-road, Clapham Park, London, S.W. Phone, Streatham 950.

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WANTED, Musical Directors to Take Advantage of our Music Lending Library. Latest values, two-steps, intermezzi, marches, &c. Eight full orchestras for 1s. per week. A large selection of standard overtures, selections, and suites. Send 1s. 6d. for sample parcel; also Piano Solos, 8 for 1s. GOLDMAN'S MUSIC WAREHOUSE, 78-80, Ocran-rd., South Shields.

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A finishing school for Orchestral Players will shortly be inaugurated under the above title. Positions secured for pupils when proficient.

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MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Musical Director (pianist), exempt military service; also arrange for any combination of instruments; desired, many years' West-End experience; specially arranged repertoire for theatres, hotels, cinemas, &c. Box 1,075, "The Era."

WANTED, engagement, Musical Director; thoroughly experienced in Cinema Theatres or Hotel business; orchestras supplied, &c.; London preferred. Apply, DAVIES, Orchestra, Regent Palace Hotel, Piccadilly-circus, London, W. Telegrams, "Davies, Orchestra, Untippable, Piccy, London."

WANTED, engagement, by first-class Musical Director Pianist; experienced and reliable; good references; library. Address, CONDUCTOR, 88, Russell-street, Peterborough.

WANTED, Engt. by Conductress (piano); exp. Var. and Pics.; large library; Northbrook, 43, Cavendish-place, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Engt., lady Pianist-Conductress; Pictures; good library; could supply Trio. CONDUCTRESS, 160, Leamington-road, Blackburn.

WANTED, Engagement by Lady Violinist, Orchestra (not Leader), experienced. 8, Park Cres-terr., Brighton.

WANTED, Known, to the Managers of Theatres and Cinemas, Miss JACK ALLEN, the famous Violinist, and her Orchestra are returning to town after an absence of two years, for the season only. Apply, to Mrs. MME. A. WALTER, 3, Maccofield-street, W. 1.

WANTED, by Solo Cornet, Summer Engagement June; last summer, Gt. Malvern. Address, SOLO CORNET, P.O.W. Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Clarinet, discharged soldier, 15 years' professional experience, wants change; any bus.; good refs.; within 30 miles of Sheffield preferred. Apply, Box 1,072, "The Era."

WANTED, Engt., by Clarinetist and Flautist, through orchestra reduced; good references; experienced mus. com. Apply, CLARINETIST, Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, engagements, Double Bass, Second Cellist (ladies). HARRIS, 22, Manor-place, Paddington Green.

WANTED, Known, Double Bass, thoroughly experienced in all lines; steady, reliable; ineligible; wants Engagement. Box 1,070, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement by a good Contra-Bassist, now at liberty. DOUBLE-BASS, 38, Dewsbury-rd., Dollis Hill, London, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement by Miss AMY LURLINE, Euphonium. Mayblossom, Belvedere, Kent.

WANTED, Eng., by Cellist, young lady; experienced orchestral and solo; Midlands or N. preferred; hotel, cinema, or café. CELLIST, 24, St. Nicholas-road Brighton.

WANTED, Known, High-class Cinema Cellist, at liberty. W. 38, Cavendish-road, S.W. 12.

WANTED, in West-Country Hotel, Engt. for summer by Cellist, Vocalist, with own trio (ladies); experienced; good rep. App., 1,081, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Cellist seeks experience in Cinema or Variety; would give Saturdays. Box 1,080, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Young Lady Cellist and (Gent.) Operator, desire engagement together, in cinema. Operator 7 years' experience, used to D.C., A.C., M.S., G.E. Good refs. Wire or write to W. H. ARCHER, 26, Vicarage-road, Camberwell, London, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement by Cello (ineligible), Address, CELLO, 17, Cadogan-road, Bond-st., London, E. 7.

WANTED, Known, will Messrs. Frank Ash, Tilley, Caledon, Scotland, and M. Nice, late the Guards' Bands, please note their old deputy Contra-Bass-Tuba and Bombardier Tuba player, being non-society (old Federation man) is at liberty for first-class cinema summer engagements. Apply, BANNISTER-LOUGHLAN, 18, Pilling-street, Morecambe Bay.

WANTED, Engagement for Pianist and Cellist, cinema, in town. 4, Gloucester-cres., Regent's Park, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement by exp. Picture Pianist (lady), good reader, orchestra preferred. Salary low if sure. H. 15, Argyle-street, King's Cross.

WANTED, Known, Disengaged Sundays first-class Pianist, Violinist, Cellist, wanted. Cellist, evenings; good tone. 82, Talbot-rd., Bayswater.

WANTED, Eng. by brilliant Lady Pianist, Soloist and Accompanist, and splendid Soprano Vocalist, to join concert party or entertainers. A. C. 73, Franklin-road, Harrogate.

WANTED, Engt. by brilliant Pianist (lady), orchestral and soloist, and splendid soprano vocalist. Apply, A. C. 73, Franklin-road, Harrogate.

WANTED, by lady Pianist, engagement with small orchestra in Café; London or suburbs; would deputise. 10, Prince's-road, Brompton, S.W.

WANTED, Deputy Relief Pianist, experienced Cinema. Apply, WILLIAMS, 93, High Exchange, Southwark, S.E., between 11 and 12 noon.

WANTED, Known, lady Pianist, disengaged (not orchestral); experienced; London only. PIANIST, 3, Ferndale-rd., S.W. 4.

WANTED, by MARIE and FLORENCE BELL, Piano and Double Bass, add, till May 7, 53, Church-street, Oswestry.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement by first-class Relief Picture Pianist (lady), exp. PIANIST, 15, Hilda-rd., Brixton, S.W. 9.

WANTED, by Lady Picture Pianist; relief or solo; good repertoire of music. A. V. 683, Oxford-road, Reading.

WANTED, Engt. by Pianist (lady); thoroughly exp. Variety and Pictures; own library. 8, 43, Cavendish-place, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Known, experienced Relief Pianist-Organist would like to change one day weekly. London, 128, Warwick-street, S.W.

WANTED, by Organist-Pianist (Lady), cinema or hotel. Also Gent. Violinist. ANDREWS, 155, Sumatra-road, W. Hampstead.

WANTED, engagement, by Orchestral Pianist; sight reader; experienced; reliable. PIANIST, 5, Thornfield-road, Shepherd's Bush, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Orchestral Pianist-Organist. BORTHWICK MELLISH, 25, St. Albans-rd., Barking, N.W. 10.

WANTED, Known, Orchestral Pianist or Organist (Gent.), owing to County Council regulations, the above would like to change over one day weekly on mutual terms. S.W. or S.E. districts preferred. Box 1,076, "The Era."

WANTED, a good Pianist, one that can double another instrument, for a musical show. State age, references, and lowest terms, to C. A. SEEBOLD, Theatre Royal, Worthing.

WANTED, Known, Mustel Organist, disengaged for first-class business only; thoroughly experienced any business; dress, MUSTEL ORGANIST, Box 1,086, "The Era."

WANTED, by experienced Cinema Pianist-Organist, now disengaged; would deputise. Box 1,083, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, thoroughly experienced Orchestral Pianist and Organist, wants afternoon engagements; Café or Cinema, or would deputise. D'ESTRO, 74, Priory-court, Mawood-avenue, Kilburn.

WANTED, Known, Organist wants Engagement; high references. Box 1,092, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Pianist-Organist wants Engagement in cinema; good sight-reader and experienced. London only 6 days a week. M. WILSON, 25, St. George's-mansions, Red Lion-sq., W.C. 1.

WANTED, Engagement as Lady Relief Pianist-Organist, West London. PIANIST, 19, York-Gdns., Ealing, W. 13.

WANTED, Engt., by Harpist; first-class soloist; open for any business, or combine with musical turn on the halls. Address, F. HALL, Bessiah Villa, Barnard Green, Great Malvern.

WANTED, by MISS VETTER, engagement at seaside, Double Drummer; thoroughly competent. Address, c/o H. J. Waring, Ships' Agent, Southampton.

WANTED, engt. as Double Drummer. Typas, &c. Exempt, J. REYNOLDS, 51, High-st., Kirkcaldy, Scotland. P.O.W. Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engt. by Lady Double Drummer, typas, and effects; pictures, var. Box 1,029, "The Era."

WANTED, by 3rd Class Dramas, Typas, &c. Rag-time or any business. Wounded discharged soldier open at once if required. Address, 25, Marchmont-st., Russell-square, London.

WANTED, Known, Trio, Disengaged May 14; hotel or good cinema; can be heard playing daily in London; good library. Offers to Box 1



## PRODUCTIONS OF THE MONTH

**PRODUCTIONS OF THE MONTH.**  
**FEBRUARY.**  
"Anthony in Wonderland," comedy, in four acts, by Monckton Hoffe; Prince of Wales, Feb. 1.  
"Bliss Girls are There, The," musical poster, in eight folios, designed by George Grossmith and Fred Thompson, music by Nat D. Ayer, lyrics by Clifford Gray, with additional numbers and dialogue by Worton David, Eustace Ponsonby, Clifford Gray, Eric Blore, Melville Gideon, &c.; presented by Mr.

"Cheering Him Up," comedy sketch, written by Len Grey; Ilford Hippodrome, Feb. 25.

"Cheerio," revue, by C. H. Bovill, music by Kennedy Russell, additional lyrics by Hugh E. Wright; London Pavilion, Feb. 20.

"Cleansing Stain, The," play, in four acts, by Jose Echegaray, translated by Manuel Gonzalez and Christopher Sanderson; Queen's Theatre, Feb. 24.

"D Company," play, in one act, by Mil-  
Malleson; New, Oxford, Feb. 10.  
"Double Event, The," comedy, in four acts,  
by Sydney Bow and Douglas Hoare;  
Queen's, Feb. 20.  
"Ennoa," comedy in one scene, by Edgar-  
Allan Woolf; Easton, Feb. 19.  
"Felix Gets a Month," whimsical comedy,  
in three acts, by Tom Nelson and Leon-  
M. Lion; Haymarket, Feb. 6.  
"Fox and fiddle," farcical comedy, in three

acts, by the Misses Day, Cummings;  
Abbey Theatre, Dublin, Feb. 2.  
"For Love of Peg," play in four acts, by  
Lodge-Percy and Henrietta Schrier;  
Theatre Royal, Stratford (first in  
London), Feb. 12.  
"General Post," comedy, in three acts, by  
J. E. Marold Terry; Devonshire Park  
Theatre, Eastbourne, Feb. 26.  
"Good Friday," play, in verse, by John  
Maasefield; Garrick (Stage Society),  
Feb. 25.

"His Wife's Friend," Hebrew farce, in one scene, by Robert Leonard; Empress Brixton, Feb. 5.

"In the Dark," detective episode, by Gilbert Heron and Ernest Bramba; Metropolitan, Feb. 19.

"Immortal Memory, The," comedy, in three acts, by Robert R. Whitaker; Court (J. T. Grein's London Repertory Theatre), Feb. 26.

"La Pomme d'Or," ballet, by Mme. Donnet; Garrick (Stage Society)

Feb. 25.  
 "La Tranche Suprême," play, in five acts  
 by Isidore de Lara; Aldwych, Feb. 15.  
 "Lend Me Your Husband," farce, in three  
 acts, by Zoe Herbert and Fred Bentley;  
 Pier Pavilion, Rhyl, Feb. 19.  
 "Love Marriage, A," romantic drama, by  
 W. V. Garrod; Islington Empire,  
 Feb. 12.  
 "Maid of the Mountains, The," musical  
 play, in three acts, book by Frederick  
 Lonsdale, lyrics by Harry Graham.

additional lyrics by P. Clifford Harris  
and Valentine, music by Harold  
Frazer-Simson, additional numbers  
J. W. Tate; Daly's Theatre, Feb. 10.  
"Monty's Plapper," farce, in three acts, by  
Walter W. Ellis; Apollo Theatre, Feb. 7.  
"My Son Sammy," musical play, lyric, play  
and music by Ernest Longstaffe; Palace  
Varieties, Oldham, Feb. 26.  
"Pro Patria," dramatic sketch, by G.  
Cornwallis-West; Coliseum, Feb. 12.  
"Question of Identity, A," play, in one  
act, by P. Clifford Harris and Valentine,  
music by Harold Frazer-Simson; Daly's  
Theatre, Feb. 10.

act, by Thelma Cohen; Cripple Gate Institute, Feb. 9.

"Reconstructing the Crime," by Sir James Barrie; Palace (War Hospital Supply Matinee), Feb. 16.

"Redeemed," drama, in four acts, by William E. Groves; Dalston, Feb. 19.

"Ruts," comedy, in four acts, by Harry Wall; Court (J. T. Grein's London Repertory Theatre), Feb. 19.

"Seven Days' Leave," play, in four acts, by Walter Howard; Lyceum, Feb. 14.

"What Every Girl Can Do," play, in four acts, by Sub-Lieutenant Willoughby Drake, R.N.V.R.; Pavilion, Pontnewynydd, Feb. 5.

"Why She Got Married," drama, by Lodge-Percy and Henrietta Schrier; Hippodrome, Mexborough, Feb. 8.

"Widow Who Would, The," Lancashire sketch, by J. J. Wild; Queen's Park, Feb. 5.

Hippodrome, Manchester, Feb. 3.  
REVIVALS.  
"Catch of the Season"; Prince's, Feb. 17.  
"Land of Promise, The"; New, Feb. 8.  
"Much Ado About Nothing"; New Queen's  
Manchester, Feb. 19.  
"Young England"; Drury Lane, Feb. 24.

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**TOYNBEE HALL A.D.C.**  
As is so often the case with amateur  
productions, this Society's performance of  
Mr. C. Haddon Chambers's early play

"The Idler" at the Cripple Gate Theatre recently lacked repose. Most of the actors moved about the stage far too much. This criticism applies more particularly to the male members of the cast who have yet to learn the lesson of how to act with ease. Mr. Ernest Copping's performance as General Merryweather was also spoiled, to our mind, by his constant fidgeting, sometimes crossing and uncrossing his legs a dozen times during a short speech. The best individual piece of acting

was given by Mr. C. William Dorell a Simeon Strong. He got "right there" with his American accent, and managed to get just enough, and not too much, graver into the part. Almost as good was Miss Jeanie Goldberg, a young actress with a well-modulated voice, who played the lively role of Kate Merryweather with a real sense of fun. Mr. Joseph Silver a Mark Cross showed a good deal of savoir faire in one or two awkward situations in the management. Miss Rae C. Gold

ring. If not quite intense enough in the bigger scenes, played commendably as Lady Harding; and Miss Yetta Sassnon contributed a most agreeable piece of comedy acting as Mrs. Glynn-Sassmon. Mr. Wroughton Baker accounted for part of Sir John Harding in a most creditable manner; Miss Guselle Barnstein was too affected in voice as Mrs. Cross; and Mr. St. Alphonse and Miss Sarah Denbigh played the two servants quite adequately. The production was well received by a

A copy of "The Bra" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for **THREPPENCE HALFPENNY.**







**"ERA" FINANCIAL SECTION.**

BY OUR FINANCIAL EXPERT.

**A REVIEW OF THE WEEK.**

The market in all classes of amusement shares has been sadly depressed during the past week, and all quotations are more or less normal. Where actual transactions are recorded the official Stock Exchange markings show lower prices, and the immediate outlook is by no means rosy. Further Government restrictions are nearly certain to be imposed on the working of amusement houses generally, as well as some increase in the excess profits tax. Consequently shareholders must look forward to further depreciation of their securities.

**Provincial Cinematograph Theatres, Ltd.**  
The annual general meeting of shareholders of this company was held at the

Holborn Restaurant on Monday. The directors report that "the operations of the company have again been satisfactorily maintained." The past year's trading has resulted in a profit of £75,149, which, together with £8,052 brought forward from the previous year, makes a total of £83,201 available to be dealt with. The directors proposed the payment of a final dividend of 5 per cent. on the Ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for the year, and carrying forward the sum of £4,428 to the new account. The Ordinary shares will thus have received 100 per cent. on their shares since the formation of the company in November, 1909.

G. A.

**CURRENT MARKET QUOTATIONS OF THE PRINCIPAL THEATRE, MUSIC HALL AND CINEMA COMPANIES' SHARES.**

The following Quotations, made up to Tuesday morning in each week, are supplied to us by Messrs. Keith, MacAllister and Co., Ltd., 53a, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.

|                                              |                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alhambra (London) £1 Ord. ... 1-1 1/2        | London Th. of Var. £1 Ord. ... 2/6-3/0                     |
| 4th Deb. (1912) ... 3/4-5/8                  | £1 7 1/2 Cum. Pref. ... 4-5                                |
| Assoc. Prov. Pic. Houses £1 Ord. ... 3/4-5/8 | Manchester Hippo. £5 Ord. ... 5 1/2-5 3/4                  |
| £1 5 1/2 Non-Cum. Pref. ... 5 1/2-5 3/4      | £5 1st Mort. Debs. ... 65-75                               |
| B.B. Pictures £1 1/2 Cum. Pref. ... 8/6-9/6  | Manchester Pal. of Var. £1 Ord. ... 1 1/2-1 3/4            |
| Biograph Ths. 10s. "B" Ord. ... 1/6-2/0      | £5 1st Mort. Debs. ... 90-95                               |
| Birmingham Th. Royal £1 Ord. ... 8/6-7/8     | Manchester Th. Royal £10 Ord. ... 7 1/2-8 1/4              |
| 5 1st Mort. Debs. ... 69-71                  | Moss' Empires £5 Ord. ... 3 1/2-3 3/4                      |
| Coliseum £1 Ord. ... 3 1/2-3 3/4             | £5 5 1/2 Cum. Pref. ... 3 1/2-3 3/4                        |
| £1 5 1/2 Non-Cum. Pref. ... 18-19            | National Elec. Th. 10s. Ord. ... 7/16-8/16                 |
| 5 1st Mort. Debs. ... 94-96                  | Oxford £5 Ord. ... 2 1/2-2 3/4                             |
| Croydon Hip. £5 1st Mort. Debs. ... 40-51    | Palace Theatre 10s. Ord. (9s. pd.) ... 9/16-11/16          |
| Empire £1 Ord. (10s. pd.) ... 3 1/2-3 3/4    | Piccadilly Cir. Cin. Th. £1 Ord. ... 1-1 1/4               |
| £1 Ord. (10s. pd.) ... 3 1/2-3 3/4           | Piccadilly Cir. Cin. Th. £1 Ord. ... 1-1 1/4               |
| Gaiety Theatre £1 Ord. ... 2-2 1/4           | Picture Th. Finl. Trust £10 7 1/2 %                        |
| Glasgow Alhambra £1 Ord. ... 2-2 1/4         | Partic. Deb. Bond ... 10 1/2-10 3/4                        |
| Pavilion £1 Ord. ... 2 1/2-3                 | Prov. Cin. Th. £1 Ord. ... 5/8-1                           |
| Hackney & Shep. Bush £5 Ord. ... 4-4 1/4     | " " £1 7 1/2 % "A" Pref. ... 18-19                         |
| £5 5 1/2 Cum. Pref. ... 3 1/2-3 3/4          | " " £1 7 1/2 % "B" Pref. ... 15 1/2-16 1/2                 |
| 5 1st Mort. Debs. ... 69-70                  | Robert Arthur Th. Co. 5 1st Mort. Debs. ... 72-74          |
| Howard & Wyndham £5 Ord. ... 4 1/4-4 1/2     | Sheffield & Dis. Cin. Th. 10s. Ord. (15s. pd.) ... 1-1 1/4 |
| £5 5 1/2 Cum. Pref. ... 4 1/4-4 1/2          | Th. Royal (Drury Lane) £1 Ord. ... 3 1/2-3 3/4             |
| Leicester Pal. Th. £5 Ord. ... 4 1/4-4 1/2   | United Theatres £5 Ord. ... 2 1/2-3 1/4                    |
| London Pav. £5 Ord. ... 1-1 1/4              | United Theatres £5 5 1/2 Cum. Pref. ... 2 1/2-3 1/4        |
| " " £5 5 1/2 Cum. Pref. ... 3 1/2-3 3/4      | Victoria Palace 10s. Ord. ... 1-1 1/4                      |

MAY 1, 1917.

(Subject to market fluctuations)

**"THE MUSIC HALL AND THE CHURCH."**

This was the title of an address given under the auspices of the Playgoers' Club by Mr. Charles Coborn at the Royal Adelaide Rooms, Strand, on Sunday evening. Mr. H. Tripp Edgar presided, and there was a good attendance.

The chairman, in the course of a few introductory remarks, said that in his opinion the profession owed to the Church little gratitude or thanks, but at the same time they could afford to bear it no ill-will.

Mr. Charles Coborn in his opening remarks referred to the many difficulties which the subject of his address presented, and said he had received a scathing letter from one of the music hall proprietors, who apparently feared that he intended to give the game away. He had always felt that there should be a closer union between the two business communities, the music hall and the Church. The business of the one was to urge the carrying out of good work and personal self-sacrifice, and of the other the importance and the necessity for recreation and physical rest and refreshment. The chief aim of both bodies was the betterment of the individual; but he admitted that they would never see a

perfect music hall or a perfect Church in this world. Both might, however, be considerably improved. Happily, there was humour in both institutions. Some of the brightest and merriest people he had ever met had been earnest workers in the Church, and as clerical humorists he mentioned Sydney Smith, Canon Barham (author of the "Ingoldsby Legends"), Mr. Moody, and John B. Gough (the temperance advocate).

Referring to the question of Sunday

labour, Mr. Coborn said that the Variety Artists' Federation had denounced it as a danger to the community, and had expelled from the Society members who by their action appeared to favour the opposite view. He hoped that the attempt to legalise the opening of music halls on Sunday would be defeated; that was his own individual view, which, however, was shared by many others.

He loved the Church, and had derived an immense amount of good from his direct connection with it. There was the sweet, soothing singing, and there were also the dramas and the pastoral romances which they heard read from time to time. He would like the people belonging to his own profession to come into closer communion with the Church, as he believed it would mean for them much increased happiness. There was a time, many years ago, when he was told, "You will never get the music hall people to combine." He had always believed that this could be brought about, and he was right. The psychical moment at length came. Another act of tyranny on the part of music hall proprietors was too much for the members of the profession. A meeting was called, a Society was formed, and though this petered out in about eighteen months' time, the seeds were left, which in due course fructified, and now the profession had a very powerful institution in the V.A.F., with a membership of about 15,000. There was also the Musical Hall Benevolent Fund, which did an immense amount of good; and other institutions. In conclusion Mr. Coborn thanked the Club for the invitation they had so kindly given him.

A discussion followed. Mr. McDonald Rendle said he failed to find any affinity between the music hall and the Church. He considered there was much credit due to those who, after a hard

week's work, gave up hours of their leisure on Sunday to giving entertainments for the benefit of the wounded soldiers and sailors. With regard to the music hall, although many of the old-time vulgarities had been swept away, he could not say that it had reached an elevated ideal at the present time.

Dr. Maquire, Miss Audrey, Mr. Austin Fryers, Mr. J. B. Burgin also spoke, and the president of the Club, Sir John Dewar, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Coborn for his excellent address.

**AGENTS' LICENCE GRANTED.**

On Friday last the Public Control Committee of the London County Council considered the application of Mr. A. Nelson Trueman, 1, Tottenham Court-road, for a music hall and theatrical agency licence. Answering Mr. Percy Simmons, who presided over the committee, the applicant said he was refused a licence in 1912 because at that time he was an undischarged bankrupt. He obtained his full discharge in 1915. For some time past he had been living at Golders Green, where he had been booking manager for Mr. Bottomley and one or two other people. On his newspaper he described himself as a theatrical agent, but he had done very little theatrical business at Golders Green. He was now connected with the firm of Messrs. Jack Simmons and Co., Ltd., Tottenham Court-road, working on the theatrical side of the business, which they wanted him to manage for them. If he obtained the licence he was asking for he might probably be appointed a director of the firm.

Mr. Seyd, solicitor for the applicant, having briefly addressed the committee, the chairman announced, after a short private deliberation, that they had decided to grant the licence from the address it had been applied for—1, Tottenham Court-road.

Miss Madge Lessing is taking the "cure" at Harrogate, after her successful appearances with "The Girl from Cairo."

Mr. Alfred M. Bray, the well-known Press agent, has been re-engaged by Messrs. Herbert Jay and Anthony Ellis for their autumn tour of "A Little Bit of Fluff." This will make Mr. Bray's third tour with this record success.

**PERFORMING ANIMALS' DEFENCE LEAGUE.**

An eloquent appeal on behalf of our dumb friends was made at Mrs. Albert Bradshaw's "At Home" on Thursday at 36, Sloane-court, in support of the objects of the Performing Animals' Defence League. The Rev. B. G. Bouchier presided, and Mrs. A. S. Bradshaw and Mr. C. E. Johns, secretary of the Canine Defence League, were amongst the speakers. Mrs. Bradshaw, in an earnest protest against the "performing animal" show in this country, said that audiences who witnessed these exhibitions were the accomplices of these brutal men who ill-treat and often torture animals in order to get them to perform their tricks. Referring to the apparent affection an animal exhibits towards his trainer at the conclusion of the act, one of the speakers said this was because he frequently had a tit-bit in his pocket, or that his face and hands were smeared with some substance palatable to the animal. One instance of cruelty mentioned was that wherein a dog, who simulated drunkenness in the course of his performance, was induced to lurch from side to side by the manipulation by the trainer of a spiked collar. A formidable-looking whip which had been used in the training of an animal, and a stick which had been broken on the body of a baboon, were also exhibited.

The first meeting of creditors was held at Bankruptcy Buildings last week under the receiving order made on April 3 against Mr. Chester Park Crawford, of Claven House, Kensington, described as a theatrical manager. A statement of the affairs showed unsecured liabilities of £29,453 and assets nil. The debtor had stated that he was an American citizen, and came to this country in 1907 to open skating rinks. In October, 1914, he conducted the New Theatre, Manchester, as a picture theatre for two weeks, and incurred liabilities of £250, which were still outstanding. He also obtained the right to perform in England a play called "Nelly, the Beautiful Chalk Model," which was produced at the Kensington Theatre by a company of which he was managing director. His failure was attributed to losses incurred in various ventures. The case was left in the hands of the Official Receiver to be wound up in bankruptcy.

**SO-CALLED ACTORS.**  
TO THE EDITOR OF "THE ERA."  
SIR,—I have just had an unpleasant experience of what managers have to contend with in the search for male exponents in war time. In answer to my advertisement for a juvenile man, what turned up stood more than 5ft. 4in., and more like a low comedian in appearance. I had to try him. Result, he contrived to get drunk four times in three acts, made himself very objectionable to every member of the company, told his landlady he was not getting his money, subbed all the time, and borrowed money from other artists, borrowed clothes from them to wear on the stage, and never knew his lines to the day he finished. As he told me he was in financial difficulties through being swindled by a manager who is too well known to be guilty of such a thing, I can guess what he will say of me, and of other managers who are unfortunate enough to have dealings with him. What a blessing when the boys come how to be rid of these impositions!—Yours faithfully, A VICTIM.

SOME COMEDY.

ONLY ACT OF ITS KIND.

SOME NOVELTY.

**FORD AND TRULY**

(CHUMS IN VARIETY).

FOR DATES, WRITE OR WIRE, GEORGE BARCLAY.

**The GREATEST PIANIST in the World**  
at playing SYNCOPATION, which we term RAGTIME.

**H. M. WELLMON**

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The only Artiste  
who can turn operatic music  
or any  
high-class composition into  
Ragtime.

THIS WEEK PLAYING AT  
**THE OXFORD, LONDON,**

Where he offers a CHALLENGE of £50 to anyone who can write his compositions.

All Enquiries care of "S. R." "THE ERA" Office.



## THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

## Increased Tax Proposals.

Managers are looking forward with some anxiety to the Budget proposals, which are being made in the House of Commons this afternoon, as a proposal to tax amusements still further is anticipated. Surely it must be conceded that entertainment purveyors of all kinds have borne the present impact uncomplainingly, and also with splendid financial results to the Government.

I have had a good deal of chat of late weeks with certain "heads" and "chiefs" - Governmental as well as professional - and I have found that the financial results of this tax upon entertainment seekers has surprised even the most optimistic of financial experts. Moreover, as the various managers concerned send in the tax returns, properly balanced and audited, that impost costs the Government nothing either for "clerking" or for red-tape!

My esteemed friend, Sir George Alexander, as true a patriot as ever breathed, and as loyal a brother to his brother managers as can be found, was, I am glad to find, soon on the warpath as to the rumoured increase of taxation of theatres, &c. Sir George has had a conference with Mr. Bonar Law, and was at the moment of writing hopeful of good and useful results therefrom.

## "The Goods" Called Up!

Seymour Hicks told me that he has just decided to call the new musical play he has written with Walter Hackett "Called Up" instead of "The Goods."

## "Family" Reasons.

I extracted from Hicks that there are two reasons why this title has been changed. One is that "The Goods" sounds too much like "Good News," the new version of "Wild Thing," due at the Prince's to-night (Wednesday). The other reason is that "The Goods" didn't mean wares, but a family of that name!

## A Gag on Gargers?

The Adelphi's W. H. Berry - or Bill-Berry, as some of us call that "fruity" funny man - lately held forth in the "Sunday Telegram" on gags - should they be allowed, or shouldn't they? And, lo! in last Saturday's issue Sir Arthur Pinero, Leslie Henson, Weedon Grossmith (otherwise "Wee Gee"), George Robey, and Sir George Alexander "replied" to "High Jinks" Berry. Most of these agreed (very wisely) that if a gag is a good gag - not "out of the period" - and not extracted from what might be called "The Blue Bag," such gag might be "tolerable and to be endured."

## That "Sewing Machine" Gag.

I was somewhat surprised that none of the above gag interviewees, in speaking of gags "in the period," referred to that famous "sewing machine" gag which the late Arthur Williams dropped in "Dorothy." In that instance, when Arthur was remonstrated with by librettist B. C. Stephenson, who informed him that sewing machines were not known in 1750, Arthur promptly brought the gag up to date by adding to it the word "Forsyth."

## When "Bubbly" Bubbles.

For some days past, and even up to yesterday, the official advertisements, &c., announced that André Charlot would produce "Bubbly" at the comedy "shortly." Just before going to press last night, however, I enquired into the matter, and was officially informed that A. C. will present "Bubbly" next Saturday.

## The Savoy "Hamlet."

Mr. H. B. Irving's "Hamlet" is an unequalled popular success, each performance having beaten the records of the Savoy Theatre, which are pretty high. There have been hosts of congratulatory letters sent to Mr. Irving, and among those which "praised" him most are some letters from soldiers.

I noticed on the first night a great number of schoolboys, and since then a great number of applications have been received from school-boys. There has been a good deal of talk about the "cuts" Mr. Irving has made, but on the whole people agree that what he has done has helped the action of the play and made the great drama clearer.

## A Beneficent Institution.

The Arts Fund, which is under the patronage of Queen Alexandra, with Miss Elizabeth Aquilino as chairman, has had an interesting and successful record. Originally founded in aid of charities devoted to drama and literature, painting, and music, it has distributed to various institutions and associations for the relief of distress in these professions caused by the war the sum of £7,032.5s. It has also organised concerts and exhibitions in aid of the fund, and the total result of six concerts, from October, 1916, to April, 1917, was £1,326.8s. 6d. The hon. treasurer is Sir George Alexander, and the hon. secretary Mr. W. L. Courtney.

## Pioneer Players.

"The Tidings Brought to Mary," which was to have been the Pioneer Players' next production, has been postponed, and for their third performance, now fixed for Sunday, May 13, the Society are producing a triple bill, consisting of "The Quilter," by the American author, Mr. Sewell Collins, with a cast including Mr. Augustus York; a new one-act piece, by Miss Gwen John, entitled "Luck of War," in which Miss Wish Wynne will appear; and a mime play founded upon the old English ballad, "Death and the Lady," arranged by Mrs. Christopher Lowther and Miss Edith Craig.

## "Hush!"

Monday, May 7, is the date chosen by Mr. Otto Stuart for his production, at the Royal Court Theatre, of Miss Violet Pearn's new comedy, "Hush!" The cast includes Miss Mary Jerrold, and Mr. Norman McKinnel is the producer.

## Gaiety Girl's Recital.

Miss Irene Richards, the popular Alma in "Theodore and Co.," will, by permission of Messrs. Grossmith and Laurillard, desert the Gaiety for the one evening of Thursday, May 10, in order to give a special vocal and dramatic recital at the Eolian Hall. The entire cost of the recital will be privately borne, and the whole receipts devoted to the St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blind Soldiers and Sailors. Miss Richards has a remarkable voice, which has been trained and highly praised by M. Jean de Reszke in Paris, and Mr. Kenneth Wye in London. She will be assisted at this recital by Mme. Alice Elison and Mr. William Murdoch.

## The Martin Harvey Company.

On Saturday, Mr. Martin Harvey, playing "David Garrick," concluded a very successful stay at the Swansea Grand, and, on Monday, opened to a big house at the Cardiff New. Next week, Mr. Martin Harvey divides between Cheltenham and Oxford.

## Actors' Association.

At yesterday's Council meeting of the Actors' Association Mr. W. G. Fay, the late chairman, was unanimously elected a life member.

## Gaby in Grand Guignol Play.

M. Yvan Servais, who made such a success in "La Malade Imaginaire" at the recent performances of the Théâtre des Allées, is adapting a short French Guignol play, which will be given as a curtain raiser at the Globe Theatre, preceding "Suzette." M. Servais, Mr. Harry Piller, and Mlle. Gaby Deslys will form the cast, and there will be full opportunity for Mlle. Gaby to give proof of her histrionic powers without the adventitious aid of stupendous head-dresses, marvellous frocks, and feats of dancing. The little play will be acted in French, in which Mr. Harry Piller is quite proficient.

## Two Sir Charles Wyndhams.

An interesting fact has been brought to my notice by Mr. Edwin Drew, who writes: "I have just read in a chapter of Hampshire history that James Wyndham, a privy councillor in the time of Charles I., had a daughter, Jane, who, in 1675, married Sir Charles Wyndham, of Cranbury Park near Winchester, and that Lady Wyndham, surviving her husband some years, died in 1720. This should interest the world of the stage."

## The "Old Vic."

The concluding performance of the Shakespearean season at the Victoria Hall, Waterloo-road, will be "Much Ado About Nothing" on Friday evening. On Monday the "Vic." repertory company, under the direction of Mr. Ben Greet, will open at the Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, for a two weeks' festival season.

## A New Musical Farce.

Mr. José Levy has again been busy with his pen, this time on a translation and adaptation for musical purposes of the highly successful French farce, "Le Truc d'un Brésilien." The translation, which at present bears the title of "The Trick of a Brazilian," has been acquired by Messrs. Grossmith and Laurillard.

## Sir Francis Burnand's Funeral.

The funeral of the late Sir Francis Burnand took place at St. Augustine's, Ramsgate, on Wednesday. Requiem Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Anselm Fox, and the beautiful music was sung by a choir of monks. The interment was in the adjoining churchyard, not far from Sir Francis' residence. Lady Burnand was unable to attend owing to indisposition. The funeral included one inscription: "To Frank, with sincere affection, from the proprietors of 'Punch' and his old colleagues of the Round Table." Other flowers were from Lady Burnand, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Partridge, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Terry, and the children of the Ramsgate Crèche.

## The Man Who Didn't.

The latest actor to gain military honours is Lieut. Leslie Faber, who has been awarded the M.C. Curiously enough, the last part he played was the title-role of "The Man Who Stayed at Home" in America.

## "Bluff!"

Mr. Oswald Cray has arranged with Mr. Herbert May to tour the successful play, "Bluff!" by Lucas Landon. The original scenery and effects from the Garrick Theatre will be carried.

## Marleyn Vocal Recital.

Mr. Hugh Marleyn, who has recently been described as "the Prince of Vocal Recitals," announced the last of his interesting recitals for this season. On that occasion, at St. James's Hall on May 16, at 8.15 p.m., Mr. Marleyn will present, as usual, the most representative compositions of the living British composers, including Sir Hubert Parry, Sir Chas. Stanford, Percy Pitt, Cyril Scott, Julius Harrison, and, by many requests, Mr. Marleyn's own setting of Housman's "In Summer-time in Breton," which was so enthusiastically received at its first performance.

In addition, Bemberg's "La Ballade du Désespéré," for recitation, contralto, violin, cello, and piano, will be given. Much curiosity is manifested in regard to this item. Two songs of Sibyllus, which are believed never to have been heard on the London concert platform hitherto, are included. The South African Taa song, "All Brand," will again be performed in the original tongue, as also Sinding's "Bad in our Song," which will be sung by Mr. Marleyn in the original Norwegian.

## General Theatrical Fund.

The May meeting of the Board of Directors of the Royal General Theatrical Fund was held yesterday at Goschen Buildings, Covent Garden. There were present Messrs. M. R. Morand (chairman), Charles Rock (hon. treasurer), Lionel Carson, Charles Doran, Douglas Gordon, W. L. Rignold, Frank Weatherley, Wallace Widdicombe, Hubert Wilks, H. Saxe Wyndham, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). Mr. E. Vincent Harris, F.R.I.B.A., was unanimously elected hon. architect and surveyor to the fund to fill the post vacated by Mr. Walter J. Ebbell, F.R.I.B.A., on his retirement from practice. Mr. Alfred Goddard was unanimously elected a director of the fund.

A question as to the reinstatement of a member on terms was referred to the hon. solicitor. A candidate for membership was elected. The secretary was instructed to settle details for the refundment to his legal representative of the whole of the subscriptions paid to the R.G.T. Fund by a deceased member.

It was decided the annual festival be not held this year, and that a list of donations "be opened" (as in 1915 and 1916), and contributions solicited in lieu thereof. The secretary reported he had, by request, divided the amount payable to an annuitant up to last quarter day between three of the war charities, i.e., the Blind Soldiers' and Sailors' Hostel, Regent's Park; the Permanent Home for Paralyzed and Totally Disabled Soldiers and Sailors, Richmond; and the Freemasons' War Hospital, Chelsea, and the acknowledgments received would be forwarded to the annuitant, now residing in America.

## Opera in Manchester.

The production of "The Fair Maid of Perth" by Sir Thomas Beecham, at the New Queen's Theatre, Manchester, on Tuesday of last week, was prevented at a few hours' notice by the sudden illness of Miss Mignon Nevada, who was cast for the principal part. "Faust" was given instead, and the production of Bizet's version of Scott's story is announced to take place on Friday of this week.

It is gratifying to know that the wave of local enthusiasm for the excellence of the Beecham opera has resulted in the extension of the season for another (the sixth) week. To say that there is scarcely ever a vacant seat in a theatre of the huge capacity of the New Queen's, is a great testimony to the quality and attractiveness of this tremendous musical enterprise.

I learn, by the way, that Miss Emily Beecham, eldest daughter of the late Sir Joseph Beecham, has been received into the Catholic Church. The ceremony was performed by Bishop Bull at Westminster Cathedral.

## Paisley's Two Years' Repertory.

Mr. J. H. Saville is heartily to be congratulated upon the completion of two years' repertory work at Paisley Theatre. To carry on such a scheme single-handed, and that during war time, is an achievement which has caused many a managerial eye to turn towards Paisley to learn how it is done. Every week a change of bills has been made, Mr. Saville himself attending to all the managerial and technical work connected therewith. A praiseworthy feature of Mr. Saville's work has been the entertainments given weekly to big contingents of wounded from local hospitals.

## Repertory at Bath.

The ancient city of Bath is the latest provincial centre where the experiment of a repertory season is to be tried. It is to start at the Theatre Royal on Monday next, and the local public are promised strong dramatic plays, dainty comedies, rollicking comedies, and good, wholesome fare, appealing to all types of the modern playgoer, and played by thoroughly capable artists.

The personnel of the company is exceptionally interesting, including as it does Mr. Kenelm Foss, who will personally produce all the plays; Mr. Noel Phelps, who will make a welcome return to the stage after over two years in khaki; Mr. Alfred Knott, from the Garrick Theatre; Mr. Harry Astell, so long associated with Mrs. Patrick Campbell; and Mr. George Tawde. The leading lady will be Miss Elia Erskine.

## Repertory at Buxton.

A most successful opening was given to the Buxton Opera House repertory season, to extend over six weeks under the direction of Miss Ethel van Praagh, who has been capable of gathering together an excellent company of experienced players. "Mrs. Goring's Necklace" received most sympathetic treatment last week, curtain calls being numerous.

## Jewish Season for Glasgow.

A Yiddish dramatic and operatic season will commence on May 21 at the Princess's, Glasgow. Madame Fanny Waxman will be the leading attraction.

"Theodore and Co." 25th Night. "Theodore and Co." celebrates this evening its 25th performance at the Gaiety. There is, by the way, no foundation or authorisation for the statement recently published that Mr. Leslie Henson is shortly to leave the Gaiety. Mr. Henson has signed a contract to remain with Messrs. Grossmith and Laurillard for a long term of years.

## "Ghosts" on Tour.

Mr. Leigh Lovell and Miss Octavia Kenmore are arranging a series of special bookings with "Ghosts" in the provinces. Liverpool, Bristol, and several of the large cities are already booked or in negotiation. This is the tenth year of Mr. Lovell's and Miss Kenmore's associations with the play, though of late their activities seem considerably to have been curtailed by the war.

## Pierrot's Romance.

A pleasant little fantasy, "The Triumph of Pierrot," was incorporated in a matinée d'ensemble which took place at the Alexandra, Birmingham, last week, for benevolent purposes, particularly in connection with the entertainment of wounded soldiers. Mrs. Norton, the author, was called and heartily congratulated on a pretty and deftly contrived piece of stage hyperbole.

## A Notable Piece of Brush Work.

In the revival of Ibsen's so-much-discussed play, "Ghosts," at the Kingsway Theatre, a feature that is specially worthy of note is the exact reproduction of the interior of an apartment in an ordinary Norwegian house. This is from the clever brush of Mr. Francis H. Bull, the well-known scenic artist, who in painting the set was guided by the useful information imparted by a native of Norway.

## Oxford Summer Engagements.

The summer programme provided by the enterprising manager of the New Theatre, Oxford, is an interesting and notable one. The list of attractions includes Mr. Martin Harvey in "David Garrick," Mr. Albert Chevalier in "Caste," "The Arcadians," "Peg o' My Heart," "Within the Law," "Joyland," and that old favourite "The Belle of New York."

## Drury Lane Opera.

Sir Thomas Beecham's season of grand opera in English at Drury Lane Theatre begins on Monday, May 28. When that time arrives the spectacular film drama, "Intolerance," will be transferred to another theatre.

## Sarah Bernhardt.

News regarding Mme. Sarah Bernhardt is more reassuring, and a cable from New York states that she is making steady but slow progress. Last week-end Mr. Balfour telegraphed to the distinguished actress expressing sympathy and inquiring as to her progress.

## Critics in Conference.

The annual meeting of the Critics' Circle was held at the Institute of Journalists, Tudor-street, on Friday afternoon, under the presidency of Mr. E. F. Spence. The report presented by Mr. S. R. Littlewood, the hon. secretary, contained a record of good work accomplished, which included a lecture on "The Law of Libel" by Mr. Spence, and an address on National Service by Mr. Harry Brittain. The financial statement, which showed a credit balance, was presented by Mr. Bernard Wether, and adopted. All the officers were re-elected.

THE DRUID.

## A BLIND SOLDIER'S REVELATIONS.

One-act Play. Written by Carlisle and Jackson. Produced at the Brixton Theatre, April 21.

Burglar ..... Worton Kenley  
Mother and daughter ..... Sisters Elision  
Sailor ..... A.M. Pinckrooe  
The Blind Soldier ..... Syd Carlisle

This new play, which agreeably blends drama and comedy, was given as a front piece to a capital performance of "Petticoats" at the Brixton Theatre by Mr. Arthur Gibbons' company. With the help of the resident manager (Mr. Newman Maurice), a large body of our gallant boys, including many blind soldiers, were entertained.

A suburban widow's soldier son returns from the front, deaf and blind, yet still withal cheery. He brings with him toys and war relics for his little brother Robert, whose recent death has been kept a secret for fear of distressing the soldier while at the front. The widow never imagined that her blind niece, Nora, would find her soldier cousin able to read to her in Braille on his return from the war; but he had even gone a step further, as revealed in a strange little episode in which Nora was robbed by a chimney-sweep, who, on his own confession, turned out to be a professional burglar. The soldier lad was quite overcome with grief by his mother's revelations; but the burglar changed the sad situation by explaining to the blind soldier in Braille on his fingers, which he had learnt whilst employed at the Blind Institution.

Some amusement was caused by the mixing up of Nora's sailor lover with the chimney-sweep, who returns her purse he had stolen, and came near rough usage by the Jack Tar. This was obviated, however, by a discovery that the burglar had previously saved the soldier's life.

Mr. Worton Kenley cleverly assumed the rôle of the burglar; the Sisters Elision were both exceedingly good as the widow and daughter; Mr. A.M. Pinckrooe was a jovial Jack Tar; and the producer (Mr. Syd Carlisle) was admirable as the blind soldier. The playlet was received with enthusiasm.

## "THE STRONG HAND."

Play, in Two Acts, by R. J. Ray. Produced at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Wednesday, April 25.

Michael John Dillon ..... Fred O'Donovan  
Mrs. Margaret Dillon ..... Maureen Delany  
Eileen ..... Irene Kelly  
Thade Kearney ..... Eric Gorman  
William McCarthy ..... Arthur Shields  
James Cassidy ..... Donald O'Kelly  
Mrs. Brady ..... Dorothy Lynd  
Father Brandon ..... Peter Nolan

As a series of well-contrasted character studies "The Strong Hand" proved a marked success. The interest of the play centres round Michael John Dillon, a reckless agitator, and leader of the people of Dranganon. A murder has been committed in the village, for which Mrs. Brady's husband has been imprisoned. James Cassidy accuses, by veiled hints, Michael John Dillon as the real culprit. The latter vows a terrible vengeance, and, having maimed a number of James Cassidy's horses, shoots dead the local landlord, coming home to die himself from the effects of an injury received in his dastardly act. Though the plot is weak, the characters are exceptionally well drawn and true to life.

The players one and all deserve the highest praise. Mr. Fred O'Donovan as Michael John Dillon submitted an exceptionally fine study. Miss Maureen Delany (Mrs. Margaret Dillon) played the part of an old peasant woman with remarkable finish. Miss Irene Kelly (Eileen) and Miss Dorothy Lynd (Mrs. Brady) played their respective rôles admirably. Mr. Peter Nolan (Father Brandon) was distinctly good. Mr. Donald O'Kelly (James Cassidy) gave an exceptionally well-studied interpretation of his part. The remaining characters were capably filled by Mr. Eric Gorman (Thade Kearney) and Arthur Shields (William McCarthy).

Mme. Clara Butt can already count upon a sure success for her Joan of Arc Day on May 8, in aid of the "Three Arts" Women's Employment Fund. The famous contralto has secured not only the aid of all the most notable people in the "Three Arts," but has enlisted the sympathetic interest of the social world as well. Her "Pageant of Fair Women" at the Queen's Hall, arranged by Mr. Louis N. Parker, will be a great attraction.

Some suggestive thoughts on Shakespeare - "the barbarian" - were offered to the Birmingham Shakespeare Reading Society at its annual birthday celebration on Saturday. In the artificial age of Voltaire, Pope, and others, said the president (Mr. Harrison), Shakespeare was spoken of slightly as a barbarian who lacked scholarship. We were thankful that Shakespeare was not in the thrall of the traditions of Greek tragedy, giving us relief from the tenacious of tragic situations by a touch of humour. Shakespeare knew just how much horror the English mind could stand, and that some temporary diversion was necessary.

A number of Colonial soldiers witnessed on the afternoon of Anzac Day a performance of "The Catch of the Season" at Prince's Theatre, the theatre and performance being given free through the generosity of Mr. Seymour Hicks and Miss Elision Terries. There were two pleasing incidents during the performance - Miss Isobel Elson being presented with a handsome bouquet on behalf of "the Australian boys," and Mr. Seymour Hicks with a silver casket, in appreciation of his kindness in lending the theatre and giving the entertainment. The casket bore the inscription: "From the Anzac Boys to Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Hicks, in affectionate remembrance, Anzac Day, 1917."

At the German Shakespeare Society's annual meeting at Weimar, Councillor Martersteig, director of the Leipzig Theatre, lectured on technical stage problems and Shakespearean works. There were (he said) no good translations of Shakespeare in Germany. He urged that a German poet should give Germany a lasting and truly German rendering of Shakespeare. He hoped that after the war a German Shakespeare would be allowed to illuminate the German stage as before, as the "irritable German spirit" could not endure to be fed on Shakespeare during the war.

## THE TOURING PROBLEM.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE ERA."

Sir, - With the view of obviating the difficulties of transit and of minimising railway journeys, I put before our Provincial Manager of Entertainments Association recently what amounted practically to the following proposition: - That touring managers of theatrical companies, as well as variety acts, carrying scenery or heavy properties, or their agents, send in to our secretary their date-sheets. He would make a call on provincial managers, the latter to be in sections - viz., one section of Lancashire and Yorkshire, another of the Midlands, another of the North of England. Well, say the L. and Y. section mutually arrange to take into consideration a company, they work out a tour, probably commencing at Liverpool, which possibly could be followed on to Warrington, St. Helena, Wigan, Bolton, Bury, Rochdale, Oldham, Manchester, and so on into Yorkshire. The North, or the Midlands managers take it further in hand. Such a tour could be arranged that it would mean journeys could be undertaken by trams and the scenery by road.

It might be said that one manager would not care for a certain company. Well, he has no need to entertain it, and the town can be left out. On the other hand, the touring manager may not care to go to certain places - then he can also leave them out, and may possibly now and then have to risk taking a journey. However, after such companies are picked out, the dates pencilled down, it would behoove each manager to correspond with the touring manager or act, and make his own terms; naturally, the same would vary according to the attraction or according to the theatre or town.

Such meetings of managers would have been valuable in various ways; possibly one may have seen an attraction, and his opinion expressed saved many a journey to witness it. His opinion of the worth of an act or play would be welcomed; it would be honest, as he would have no other interest beyond giving it.

However, my proposals have not been taken up. That does not cause me any surprise, for it is an Englishman's privilege, and custom, to wait until the danger arrives, then only to set about it and make the best of what could have been avoided.

Luckily, transit has not been so bad of late, but one does not know what is in store; still, we must hope for early normal times. We certainly have the summer coming along, and after Whit week a great number of companies go off the road and a good many theatres will close. This does not apply to variety halls, however, and the revues, sketch, and acts will continue to tour. Managers will go along with being toured. It was always so, and even at times does not seem likely to make any alteration. - Yours faithfully,

ERNEST DOTTRIDGE.

Grand Theatre, Oldham, April 28.

Prior arrangements at the Queen's Theatre compelled Mr. Bernard Hishin to withdraw "The Double Event" on Saturday. It has been found impossible at the moment to find another theatre for this comedy. Mr. Hishin has in preparation for early presentation three new pieces, one an English play which has proved the conspicuous success of the present New York season.

Another instance of a wounded soldier recovering speech as the result of a sudden effect in a dramatic performance was provided the other day at the Theatre Royal, Lincoln, when a man who had been struck dumb through shell shock recovered his vocal faculties in a remarkable way. The incident occurred at the commencement of the tableau representing the Battle of Waterloo, with its gun firing and conflict of soldiers; in the well-known historical piece, "A Royal Divorce," played by Mr. W. W. Kelly's company. The discharge of weapons caused Sergeant Apedale, of the Scottish Horse, who was sitting in the second row of the stalls, to leap from his seat with a sharp exclamation. He found he could speak, for the first time for a month and three days, and ran out of the theatre greatly excited.

The incident is vouched for by the theatre attendants and others. The man was undoubtedly suffering from aphonia, or loss of voice, and on returning to the hospital he could speak. Happily the effect has not passed off.

## BIRMINGHAM REPERTORY THEATRE.

"The Two Gentlemen of Verona" was produced at the Birmingham Repertory on Saturday night. To the great majority of the audience (perhaps to the players, too) this must have partaken of the nature of a first-night performance. The Repertory Theatre is to be congratulated on its courage in giving local players an opportunity of seeing the comedy, but its crudeness made demands on both the acting and elocution of the actors which Saturday's cast was scarcely able to satisfy. Many of the lines must have been inaudible at the back of the house owing to faulty elocution, and misplaced emphasis abounded. But, with its many and palpable weaknesses, the production was an interesting one, and much enjoyed by a large audience. The truly Shakespearean humour of Launce was admirably portrayed by that ripe comedian, Mr. J. A. Dodd, whose dog behaved in a most exemplary manner, in pleasing contrast to his prototype, Miss Cecily Byrne, as Julia, who was scarcely equal to the demands of her part at the beginning of the play, but when once she was attired in doublet and hose her charming appearance and excellent acting gave the play just that flip it required. Miss Maud Gill gave a conscientious rendering of the part of Silvia, and Mr. Scott Sunderland, as Valentine, and Mr. W. J. Roe, as Proteus, both did good work. A special word of praise must be awarded to the quartette under the direction of Mr. Appleby Matthews, whose serenade, "Who is Silvia?" well deserved the spontaneous applause it evoked. The theatre orchestra gave six excellent numbers of sixteenth-century music, which did much to create the proper atmosphere.

## REVUE AT KENNINGTON.

"THE WHIRL OF THE TOWN."

This successful revue from the London Palladium, presented by Mr. R. Kaye's company, received an enthusiastic welcome at the Kennington Theatre on Monday night, clever artists, a competent and animated chorus, pretty and artistic scenery, and dresses all helping towards this desirable end. Mr. Bert Norman proved a clever comedian in the part of Cupid the Second, his song, "A Caravan Holiday," being particularly well received. Mr. George Harward, was conspicuous as Beauty, and the laughter seldom ceased whilst these two were on the stage. Miss Doreen Harley was well suited as Dulcia Manning. She possesses a fine contralto voice, which was heard to advantage in her two songs, "A Perfect Day," and "Man, Maid, and Moon," an encore being insisted on for the former. Mr. Frank Probin sang and acted well as Gilbert Hamon, having to repeat both his songs. Mr. Bert Wilson was good as Reginald, and the versatility of Miss Gwenie Harcourt was well demonstrated in the characters of Alicia, Miss Sweetie and the dresser. Specialties were introduced by the Yule Quartette, a clever troupe of male singers and dancers, and by Miss Lottie Stone's Troupe who gave a neat and clever display of various dances. "The Whirl of the Town" is one of the best things on the road.

## WHAT WAS BURNAND'S BEST PLAY?

In the obituary notice of Sir Francis Cowley Burnand one reads some strange views as to which was the best of his nearly 200 plays and playlets. One paper says, "Cox and Box," and another says, "The Colonel."

Now, as regards these two pieces, it can scarcely be claimed that Burnand wrote some lyrics (with music by Sullivan) into Maddison Morton's old farce, "Cox and Box," which, all-British as it seems, was "taken from the French." F. C. B. also turned the character of Mrs. Bouncer into a man. As to "The Colonel," F. C. B. conveyed that bodily from the comedy called "The Serious Family," which Toole and Irving used to play in at the Queen's, Long Acre, and the old Gaiety. And that play was also bodily snatched from a French play, namely, "Un Mari à la Campagne." So Burnand's claim to these two pieces was only a "third-hand" one, to say the most of it.

The fact is that, as to general plays, Sir Francis seldom, if ever, wrote an original one. His most successful serious play was a translation, namely, "Proof" from "Une Cause Célèbre." No; Burnand's best and brightest stage work lies in his burlesques, and of the scores and scores of them his best are "Black-eyed Sue" and "Ixion; or, The Man at the Wheel."

## JOGGIN' ALONG THE HIGHWAY.

The New Song which the "BOYS" are singing in France.

Words BY ARTHUR ANDERSON. Music HAROLD SAMUEL.

Chorus: -

When you're  
jog, jog, jog - gin' a - long the white road - With your  
luck all up - side down. Well, you  
don't much care if you're on the right road When you're  
bound for No. - where town. I'm  
just as hap - py in the by - ways My ways  
where - so - ev - er I may be For there's  
no friend wait - ing a - long the high - ways For a  
Vag-a-bond like me.

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**"CHEEP!"**

Revue, in Two Acts and Eleven Scenes, by Harry Gratton, Presented by Andre Chabris at the Vanderbilt Theatre on Thursday, April 26.

"Cheep!"—and good! Warranted to wear well and to become highly popular with the public. As fine a specimen of the Gratton brand of revue as we have yet seen on the market. The ingredients are well known, and always appreciated. First, Mr. Gratton establishes a cozy intimacy between the performers and audience that apparently abolishes the footlights except for illuminating purposes; then he proceeds to sweeten the delectable draught he has prepared with a little pretty honest sentiment. Next he enriches it with humour of good quality, poking such good-natured fun at the small hardships of the life of to-day that they are made merely ridiculous. Then he puts in the fruit to favour the mixture—peaches, the graceful, lively choruses girls; plums, the chief performers, Miss Beatrice Lillie, Miss Tiny Gratton, Betty, and, most choice of all, Miss Lee White; and, finally, the nuts—Mr. Clay Smith, Mr. Alfred Austin, Mr. Hal Bert, and Mr. Guy Le Feuvre. Taking the ingredients in the aforesaid order, Mr. Gratton's recipe for putting players and public on the friendliest of terms is to show exactly how author-manager and players conspire together to concoct a revue.

In "Cheep!" we are present at a rehearsal, see the principals arrive, hear them greeted by their Christian or pet names, and listen with delight to the slang of the stage. The sentiment is given into the skilful hands of Miss Lee White, Miss Beatrice Lillie, and Mr. Guy Le Feuvre. Miss Lee White brings tears with her beautiful sympathetic rendering of a sentimental song, "I Shall See You Tonight" (Clay Smith, R. P. Weston, and Bert Lee). The scene is called "Her Angel," and in it she takes the part of a woman of title, working on the land while her husband is in France, meeting and—reducing to something less than nothing an unsexed fool who prates of her lack of femininity. Having disposed of him, she sings to the man she sees only in dreams, quietly, artistically, feelingly. There is a pretty "Mother" song for the charming male impersonator, Miss Beatrice Lillie, as a Canadian Tommy in a dug-out, entitled "When I'm with Her Again," and another for Miss Lee White, "Somebody's Coming to Tea," of more than ordinary attraction; and in a Japanese scene Mr. Guy Le Feuvre makes a hit in "Yaketa," to which he has put sweet music to the words of Mr. Fred Gilbert. "Julia," another good number (James Heard and Guy Le Feuvre), given very daintily by Miss Beatrice Lillie, is one of the humorous songs; and "Where Did That One Go?" is sung with fine spirit by Miss Lee White, stirred as a Baines-father's "Ole Bill."

Some of the very best things in this bright and happy show are the satires on passing events, particularly "Society Chatter," between Miss Tiny Gratton as a Marchioness and Mr. Hal Bert as a Duke, the one wheeling a perambulator of foodstuffs, the other with a suit-case containing lamps of coal. The scene is admirably done, and brings shouts of laughter; so does the matrimonial quarrel episode, given by Miss Lee White and Mr. Clay Smith to perfection, ending with a reconciliation dust, "Don't Blame Me." Of all the funny bits, perhaps the very funniest is that provided by the "Dedicated" quartette, brilliantly played by Messrs. Alfred Austin, Hal Bert, Guy Le Feuvre, and Miss Beatrice Lillie, with Miss Lee White in a box "guying" the four of them, and finally descending to the stage by a ladder.

The economy scheme on which revues are priding themselves nowadays is splendidly carried out, and gaily laughed at by the whole company, particularly by Miss Lee White in "Good-bye, Madame Fashion," in which she wears a dress composed of threepennyworth of newspaper. The production is ample testimony to the unimportance of expenditure in revue when wit and charm are present. There are so many good things in "Cheep!" that it is impossible to mention all. Betty, the clever child actress, lends valuable assistance; and Miss Violet Grey does what she has to do naturally and pleasantly. The chorus get some rattling good effects, particularly in a "Spade" dance, and also in an enchanting "Calico Ball" scene.

**UNION OF EAST AND WEST.**

A significant part in the welcome of the Indian delegates to the Imperial War Conference was played by the Indian Art and Dramatic Society last week. On Friday afternoon, at the St. James's Theatre (generously lent by Sir George Alexander), they gave a performance of "Chitra" by Rabindranath Tagore, and "The Hero and the Nymph"—a classic of the Indian stage—by Kalidasa, in honour of the distinguished visitors. The function was held under the auspices of the Union of the East and West, and the audience was very large, and both interested and interesting. Fortunately the Society was again able to claim the services in "Chitra" of Miss Edyth Goodall and Mr. William Stack, whose beautiful impersonations of the chief characters, Chitra and Arjuna, are still fresh in the memories of those who witnessed them. Both players seem to be thoroughly in sympathy with the mystical spirit of the poem, and to be able to find the appropriate Eastern atmosphere as few modern Westerns could manage to do.

Like "Chitra," "The Hero and the Nymph" is a love allegory. Urvashi is changed, for a punishment, into a creeping vine, and only the unwavering faith of Pururava, symbolised by the jewel of Indra, King of the Celestials, is powerful to bring her again in human form to his side. In this play also Mr. William Stack was seen in the part of the hero, and achieved considerable success in a solo scene, which even his resource could hardly redeem from a suspicion of dullness and monotony—to Western ears. Miss Sybil Thorndike's warm womanliness gave life to Urvashi's lines; Miss Joyce Carey was a beautiful, sweet-voiced "friend nymph"; and Mr. K. N. Das Gupta (the adaptor of the play) brought a little welcome comic relief in with the part of a Bramin Jester. The play was produced under Mr. Charles Fry's direction.

**THE PROFESSION WITH THE COLOURS.**

Mr. Joseph Millane concludes his stock season at the Royal, Oldham, this week. He joins the Colours come time this month, and has decided to finish his season earlier than he originally intended.

Eric Melville, light comedian and vocalist, who is in the Red Cross Hospital, Great Western-road, Gloucester, would be glad to hear from or see old friends. Many naval officers and several thousand seamen and naval air service ratings were entertained in the theatre at the Royal Naval Depot at Crystal Palace on Wednesday night by a well-trained amateur company in a new nautical revue, "Form Two Deep!" (by permission of Mr. Fred Allandale). The male members of the company were all drawn from the ranks of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, and consequently there was a strong chorus. Very successful was the low comedy work of Messrs. Boen and Brown, who kept the fun going fast and furious, and scored hits with topical allusions to life and incidents in the depot, &c. Brown added to his laurels by making the best use of his excellent voice, his naval song bringing down the house. Prominent among the ladies was Miss Gaby Fay, a young actress of considerable charm. Hearty cheers for the artists and producers were given by the seamen at the call of Commander Hantock.

Honourable War Record. An Army record of which any man might be proud is held by Mr. Gervaise Hardy, who is touring with Mr. Bromley Chase's "When Knights Were Bold" company, playing Isaacson and stage manager. Enlisting as early as Aug. 6, 1914, he proceeded to France, and was attached as Gallipoli to the 1st Cavalry Division Staff. He was present at the retreat from Mons, battles of the Marne and the Aisne. He was promoted to sergeant, and placed in charge of divisional bombing unit Jan. 3, 1915, taking part in operations in France up to July 10, 1915, when, cavalry being dismounted, he embarked at Marseilles for Gallipoli. He was once wounded while in France. He organised and trained 11th Division bombing units; was three times mentioned in dispatches, and promoted 2nd Lieut. for service in the field. On the evacuation of the Peninsula Mr. Hardy proceeded to the Egyptian Western Front with the 2nd South-Western Mounted Brigade, and was present at the rout of the Sennussi. He re-embarked for France, and was again engaged in bombing work until Sept. 4 last, when, being very badly wounded, he returned to England, and received the Army discharge. Mr. Hardy has been awarded the French Médaille Militaire and the Russian Cross of St. George. During the Gallipoli campaign he was personally complimented by Earl Kitchener on the efficiency of his bombing unit.

**"MUDDLES."**

Comedy, in Four Acts, by Arthur M. Dale, Produced at Queen's Theatre, Tuesday, April 24.

At a special matinee held in aid of the Theatrical Ladies' Guild of Charity, a new four-act comedy, by Mr. Arthur M. Dale, was produced by Mr. Charles Windermere. "Muddles" is an unpretentious play, obviously the work of a new and untalented author, who has much to learn in the art of construction, character-drawing, and dialogue. Mr. Dale has written his story around one well-drawn character, a simple, absent-minded, lovable rector, a born muddler. He is hopelessly in debt, loses the bills, loses his cheque-book, loses the cheques which the quirk and the Lady Bountiful give him. A young scamp finds a signed cheque for £1,000 in the rector's tobacco-box, and appropriates it. The rector takes the blame on his own shoulders, gets into disgrace all round, is accused and abused by everyone, particularly by the young scamp's unpleasant father, and ultimately emerges triumphant. Mr. Charles Windermere was entirely successful as the rector, dignified, humorous, helpless, and pathetic in turn, always without a suspicion of exaggeration. It was an excellent performance, and makes us wish to see Mr. Windermere in more old-man parts. Good performances were given by Mr. Sydney Paxton and Mr. Henry Daniell; Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn did his utmost with an impossible part; Miss Marie Blanche was bright and charming as the rector's pretty niece; and Miss Frances Wetherall brought her usual air of distinction to the part of Lady Darlington, though there was a tendency to over-emphasise the geniality of the character. The play was well received by a friendly house, and Miss Lilian Brathwaite spoke on behalf of the society during an interval.

**"THE BELLS" SPECIAL REVIVAL.**

The performance on Sunday week at the Savoy Theatre, when Mr. H. B. Irving revived "The Bells," will be memorable for the enthusiasm aroused, and the wonderful greeting the artists received from the audience of soldiers and sailors. Had the theatre the holding capacity of the Albert Hall, it would have been taxed to its utmost capacity. To pass the time until the performance began, Mr. Irving gave instructions for the curtain to be raised and an announcement was made that the men could amuse themselves. The theatre was theirs for the time being, and it was a revelation to see how well they entertained themselves—not with the usual comic songs as one might expect, but with high-class recitations and ballads. After an enormous ovation for "A Bit of a Lad," with Mr. Gerald du Maurier and Miss Mabel Russell, Mr. Irving must have received the heartiest welcome of his whole career; minutes seemed to pass, as he stood and bowed, before he could speak his opening lines for "Mathias," and at the end of the play, after many calls, he had to make a speech. Mr. Irving seemed to be inspired on Sunday night, and the rivetted attention of the audience throughout the play, when it is considered that many could not even see the stage, speaks volumes for the magnetism of the actor and the keenness of the audience. All the company, the orchestra, and many of the staff gave their services. Already many requests have been received for Mr. Irving to repeat the entertainment.

**"THE THIRD MAN."**

Play, in Four Scenes, Written and Produced by R. Vivian Edmonds, at the Theatre Royal, Barnsley, on April 23. Arthur Lawrence, M.P.

Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds  
Charlie Trickett... Mr. C. Raymond  
Dennis Clive... Mr. Fred J. Richardson  
Thomas Tubbins... Mr. Frank Fountain  
Jim Raimore... Mr. John F. Preston  
Bill Thickins... Mr. A. Arthur r Brandon  
Detective Sleath... Mr. John Walters  
Policeman... Mr. Walter Plinge  
Mrs Ponsonby Gassett

Miss Minnie Watersford  
The Hon. Violet Fernmore  
Miss Nancy Nicholls  
Lady Musgrave... Miss Alice Fountain  
Lady De Vere... Miss Florence Davis  
Gwendoline Flashlight

Miss Lena Tarver  
Gladys Lawrence

"The Third Man" is a strong crook play, crowded with tense moments and dramatic situations, which give full scope for powerful and impressive acting.

The play opens at the brightest hour of the life of Arthur Lawrence, M.P., who, unknown to the world now hailing him as a prospective Cabinet Minister, had eighteen years earlier the bitter experience of his wife dying and his only daughter Gladys being born in a garret. In those poverty-stricken days when money was necessary to give his wife a chance of living, Lawrence in desperation joined two crooks in a diamond robbery, but, repenting at the eleventh hour, he deserted his post as a "watch dog" before the robbery and the murder of a police inspector were committed. Now, with success at his feet, the sequel to that night of eighteen years back comes with sensational suddenness as "a bolt from the blue."

Lawrence, fresh from a brilliant speech in the House of Commons, returns to his flat in Hyde Park, and has occasion to reprimand Clive, a young barrister, for taking out his daughter Gladys without a chaperone at a late hour. The young pair confess their love for each other, but Lawrence declines to consent to their engagement.

A little later an escaped convict makes his way into the flat through the open window. The noise of his entry brings back Lawrence, who, with revolver in hand, holds the supposed burglar at bay until he switches on the electric light. Then follows a tense scene as M.P. and convict recognise each other as parties to the diamond robbery of years before. Lawrence, threatened with exposure, shelters the convict in an adjoining room as the police burst into the house hot-foot on the trail. The officers are baffled, and the convict, Jim Raimore, gets himself installed as a visitor. Then follow more thrilling incidents leading to the appearance of "the third man," Bill Thickins, the other crook implicated in the diamond robbery, who, the victim of a motor accident, makes a confession just before he dies, proving the complete innocence of the M.P., who then rewards Clive with the hand of his daughter.

As the M.P., Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds played without exaggeration his difficult rôle, and his acting was always lifelike and impressive. Miss Gladys Ford-Howitt characterised the daughter with artistic adaptability, and in thrilling passages was very effective. The portrayal of the convict by Mr. John F. Preston was exceedingly true to type, while Mr. C. Raymond as the journalist, Mr. Fred J. Richardson as the barrister, Mr. A. Arthur Brandon as "the third man," and Mr. Frank Fountain as the butler, were very good in their respective rôles. Another clever study was that of Miss Minnie Watersford as Mrs. Ponsonby Gassett. The other parts were well sustained, and at the fall of the curtain there were hearty calls for the author.

Dainty Elise Malpass, who made such a success as Cinderella last Christmas, at Leeds, will return to town to make her first appearance in revue at the Hippodrome, Woolwich, in Mr. Fred Karno's "All Women" on Monday next.

The report submitted by the secretary, Mr. Henry Mills, at the annual meeting of the National Sunday League, showed that, in addition to numerous hospital concerts, thirteen teas and entertainments had been given in the League's Hall, Red Lion-square, to nearly 1,500 wounded soldiers and sailors. The League's War Loan had proved a great success, £235,000 having been subscribed by 5,900 persons. Alderman Sir W. P. Treloar was re-elected president.

**Miss ROSE LEE IVY,**

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**"EMERALDS."**

One Act Play, by E. P. Clift, Produced at the Palace Pier Theatre, Brighton, on Monday, April 27.  
Henri de Bercy... Mr. Frank Edmond  
Pierre Dupont... Mr. Clifford Heatherley  
Suzanne... Miss Lois Heatherley  
Gisèle de Beaupré

Miss Violet Vanbrugh  
The atmosphere of "Emeralds" is purely Parisian, and provides Miss Violet Vanbrugh with a fine showy part as a French actress.

Miss Gisèle de Beaupré, the fashionable actress, is courted by a wealthy Rajah, who has sent her priceless emeralds, which she intends to return, as she really loves Henri de Bercy whose affection is pure.

The scene opens in the actress's luxurious flat at night. A masked figure enters. He goes to an escritoire, evidently in quest of the emeralds. He is interrupted by the entrance of Suzanne, Gisèle's maid, who, without seeing the stranger, phones to her lover, Pierre Dupont, that the coast is clear, and he can come on the same nefarious errand. But the actress returns home sooner than Suzanne anticipated, and, seating herself on a divan, drops off to sleep. Pierre Dupont duly climbs through the window, and, proceeding with his business as a professional burglar, chloroforms the sleeping Miss. before commencing operations on the escritoire. He gets the emeralds, but is confronted by the masked man, who, having removed the chloroform pad from Miss's eyes, grepples with the burglar and engages him in a deadly struggle. The actress is aroused, and brings both men to attention with a revolver. Finally she recovers the emeralds, pardons and sends off Suzanne and her burglar, and in the mysterious masked stranger discovers Henri, her faithful lover, who had come after the emeralds, but only from promptings of jealousy.

Miss Violet Vanbrugh, wearing the most ravishing of costumes, played superbly as the French actress, endowing the part with charm and variety of feeling. Mr. Frank Edmond's sincerity was entirely convincing as Henri; Mr. Clifford Heatherley strongly limned the burglar, Pierre; and Miss Lois Heatherley aided the dramatic effect by her feverish earnestness as Suzanne.

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SOON BE SINGING—  
OUR BEAUTIFUL NEW BALLAD

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Far across the Sands of Time."



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Within the Law.—April 30, King's, Vereside; May 7, Royal, Leamington.  
Woman's Park. A.—April 30, Grand, Brighton.  
Ye Gods (Windermere).—April 30, Royal, Plymouth; May 7, Lyceum, Newport.  
Young England. — April 30, Royal, Manchester.  
Youngster Generation, The.—April 30, Lyceum, Ipswich; May 7, West Pier, Brighton.  
10.30 Down Express, The.—April 30, T.R., Seaham Harbour; May 7, Royal, Seaham Harbour.

Hip. Hip. Hoorsay—April 30, Hippo, Lewisham; May 7, Empire, Bristol.  
Hold Tight—April 30, Hippo, Cheltenham; May 7, Hippo, Cheltenham.  
Hot and Cold—April 30, Hippo, Bristol.  
How Are Yer?—April 30, Opera House, Wakefield.  
I'm Sorry—April 30, Tivoli, Hull; May 7, Empire, York.  
In the Pink—April 30, Royal, North Shields.  
Introduce Me—April 30, Hippo, Lewisham; May 7, Empire, Glasgow.  
It's a Baskain—April 30, Tower, Maid

**REVUES.**

A la Carte.—April 30, Palace, Oldham;  
May 7, Hippo, Dewsbury.

All Aboard.—April 30, O.H., Dudley; May  
7, J. & A., Lowestoft.

All French.—April 30, His Majesty's,  
Carlisle.

All Women.—April 30, Hippo, Ecoscombe.

As Irish as Ever.—April 30, Empire, Edin-  
burgh; May 7, Empire or Coliseum,  
Glasgow.

Au Revoir, Paris.—April 30, Hippo, Col-  
chester; May 7, Hippo, Norwich.

Bachelors.—April 30, Empire, Ecoscombe.

stone.  
Joyland.—April 30, Empire, Newport.  
Kodak Girl.—April 30, Hippo, Manchester.  
May 7, Alhambra, Bradford.  
L. S. D.—April 30, Empire, Liverpool.  
Little Miss Cinders.—April 30, Palace.  
Rugely.  
Little Miss Mary.—April 30, Temperance  
Hall, Merthyr.  
Little Miss Mustard. — April 30, Hippo-  
drome, Southend.  
Midnight Revels.—April 30, Hippo, Stock-  
ton; May 7, Hippo, Bolton.  
Miss Lamb of Canterbury.—April 30,  
Hippo, Laster.  
Nearly Through.—April 30, T. R. Astor.

Behind the Scenes.—April 30, Empire, West  
Bromwich; May 7, Gaiety, Birming-  
ham.  
Blighy.—April 30, Playhouse, Hitchin;  
May 7, Palace, Northampton.  
Brac-a-Brac.—April 30, King's, Edinburgh;  
May 7, Hippo, Sheffield.  
Carry On.—April 30, Gaiety, Birmingham.  
Chickens.—April 30, Hippodrome, Margate.  
Chips of China.—April 30, Palladium,  
Littlehampton.  
Coloured Society.—April 30, Pavilion, Livez  
pool; May 7, Pavilion, Ashington.  
Come In, Miss.—April 30, Tivoli, Man-  
chester; May 7, Hippo, Margate.  
Crocked.—April 30, Gaiety, Birmingham.

New Lady Barbers.—April 30, Hippo.  
Covenory.  
Night of Brightness.—April 30, Tivoli.  
Manchester.  
Nights of Gladness.—April 30, New Middle  
East, London.  
No, Thanks.—April 30, New, Pontypridd.  
May 7, Olympia, Tredegar.  
Not In These.—April 30, Victoria Stoke  
on-Trent.  
Not So Dusty.—April 30, Royalty, Llanelli.  
May 7, Empire, Belfast.  
Odds On.—April 30, Hippo, Willenden.  
On and Off.—April 30, Empire, Belfast.  
MAX 7, Empire, Belfast.

Devonshire Girl, Thè.—April 30, Queen's Poplar.  
Double or Quits.—April 30, Royal, St. Helens.  
Down on the Farm.—April 30, Pavilion, Arlington; May 7, Hippo., Stockton.  
Dutch Hussar, Thè.—April 30, Grand, Brighton.  
Extra Special.—April 30, Empire, Wolverhampton.  
Fads and Fancies.—April 30, Empire, Longton.  
Find the Lady.—April 30, County, Shrewsbury.

Pass On, Please.—April 30, T.R., Guildford  
 Peaches.—April 30, Metropole, Bootle; May  
 7, Hippo., Lancaster.  
 Pearl of the Orient.—April 30, Royal  
 Palace, Ramsgate.  
 Pekin to Paris.—April 30, Coliseum, Goole.  
 Petit Cabaret, Le.—April 30, Empire, Mid-  
 dleborough.  
 Pretty Darlings.—April 30, Metropole, Bootle.  
 Razzle Dazzle.—April 30, Empire, Sheffield.  
 May 7, Empire, Nottingham.  
 She Slipped.—April 30, P. O. W., Grimsby.  
 May 7, Queen's, Leeds.  
 Shush.—April 30, Hippodrome, Maidenhead.

Follow the Flag.—April 30, Palace, Manchester.  
Fortunes.—April 30, Empire, West Hartlepool.  
Frills and Fancies.—April 30, Hippo., Ashton, Birmingham.  
Frolics.—April 30, Palace, Plymouth.  
Full Swing.—May 7, Palace, Bradford.  
Go to Jericho.—April 30, Tivoli, New Brighton; May 7, Empire, Islington.  
Gold and Syrup.—April 30, Coliseum, Portsmouth.  
Goldman, Limited.—April 30, Empire, Dublin.  
Good Evening.—April 30, Rotherham.  
Half-past Eight.—April 30, Empire, Leicester.  
Heads.—April 30, Palace, Blackburn; May 7, Hippo., Wigan.  
Hello, There!—April 30, Alexandra, Pontefract.  
High Explosives.—April 30, Olympia, Shorehitch; May 7, Empire, Chatham.

need.  
Some Girls.—May 7, Queen's, Poplar, London.  
Some Treasure.—April 30, Olympia, Glasgow; May 7, Empire, Clydebank.  
Special Mixtures.—April 30, Hippo, Woolwich.  
Step This Way.—April 30, Royal Hippo, Salford.  
Stop Cross.—May 7, Garrison, Tidworth.  
S'wath the Matter.—April 30, Palladium, Littlehampton.  
That's Enough.—April 30, Rec. T., Millom.  
Three Cheers.—April 30, Empire, Leeds.  
Three Weeks and a Bit.—April 30, Empire, Swansea.  
Top Hole.—April 30, New, Aberdeen.  
Very Thing, The.—April 30, Opera House, Leicester.  
Wait a Minute.—April 30, Hippo., Selby, Yorks.  
Wait and See.—April 30, Hippo., Huddersfield.

—*Tempest, Act ii, Scene ii.*

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—*Henry VI., Act ii, Scene iii.*

Watch the Box.—April 30, Empire.  
Seaway.  
When Irish Eyes Are Smiling.—April 30,  
T.R., Guildford; May 7, Hippo, Sheer-  
ness.  
Whirl of the Town, The.—May 7, Royal  
Court, Reading.  
Who's Won?—April 30, Hippo, Stoke-on-  
Trent.  
Wish Me Luck.—April 30, Royal, Black-  
burn; May 7, Empire, Ashton-under-  
Lyme.  
Would You Believe It?—April 30, Empire,  
Tredgar.  
You'll Laugh if You Knew.—April 30,  
T.R., Anfield Plain.  
Zig-Zag.—April 30, Olympia, Liverpool;  
May 7, Empire, Cardiff.

**CONCERT PARTIES.**  
All Sir Garnets, The.—May 7, Dome, Worth-  
ing.  
Anglo-Indian Concert Company.—April 30,  
Circus, Hall; May 7, Palace, Stamford  
Lincs.  
Bric-a-Brac, The (Mantell).—April 30, Pen-  
zance; May 7, Cambourne.  
Excelsiors, The.—April 30, Clarence Pier,  
Southsea.  
Finales, The.—April 30, Pier, New Brighton.  
Frills and Flounces.—April 30, Pavilion  
Rhy; May 7, Palace, Pembroke Dock.  
Gay Gondoliers, The.—April 30, South  
Parade Pier, Southsea; May 7, Winter  
Gardens, Bournemouth.  
Georgians, The.—April 30, Pier, Plymouth.  
May 7, Empire, Warrington.  
Gipsies, The.—April 30, Kursaal, Whiteley  
Bay; May 7, Olympia Gardens, Rock-  
ferry.

Maid and Middies.—April 30, Picture House, Stratford-on-Avon.  
Nightbirds, The.—April 30, Institute, Swanage.  
Nobodies, The.—April 30, Empire, Kilburn.  
May 7, Palladium, London.  
Pierrot, Pierrette, and Piano.—April 30, Kimmel Park Garrison Theatre, Rhyl.  
May 7, Garrison, Oswestry.  
Punch.—April 30, Grand Opera Palace, Burton-on-Trent; May 7, Pavilion, Derby.  
Qualities, The.—May 7, Pavilion, Govan.  
Queers, The.—April 30, Town Hall, Hottel.  
Rogues, The.—May 7, Spring Gardens, North.  
Romneys, The.—April 30, Empire, Langley Moor.  
Royal Scarlet Entertainers.—April 30, Palace Pier, Brighton.  
Tourists, The.—April 30, Stow Hill Pavilion, Southsea.  
May 7, South Parade Pier, Southsea.  
Wits, The.—April 30, Palace, Rugeley.

Miss Ellaline Terriss has been presented with a silver flower vase for services to the Metropolitan Special Constabulary Ambulance Fund.

A lecture on "The Navy at War and the Submarine Menace" will be given by Mr. A. H. Pollen at the Comedy Theatre on Sunday next at 3 o'clock, in aid of the Imperial Association for Assisting Disabled Naval and Military Officers. Admiral Lord Berosford will preside.

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THE GRAND THEATRE.

Proprietors, The Blackpool Tower Co., Ltd.

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Acting Manager, Percy Harrop.

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THE THEATRE WHERE ALL MR. GEORGE EDWARDES' MUSICAL PLAYS ARE STAGED.

North—The audience have a full view of the



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These paints are made at our Factory, guaranteed pure, colours perfect, and quality better than any foreign make, and at same price. We are also producing

LINING PENCILS & COCOA BUTTER.

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A few opinions from popular people.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY, Grand Theatre, Hull.—"I have been intending for some time to send you a testimonial about your Grease Paints. I have given them a good trial now, and I think I can honestly say that they are superior even to the German, and that, alas! is saying a good deal. I compliment you heartily upon your achievement." MR. WILK EVANS, Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.—"I thank you for sample of your Grease Paints you sent, and I find it very excellent preparation. I shall certainly continue to use it." MR. PHIL RAY.—"Not being fortunate enough to receive a sample of your excellent Grease Paints, I purchased some for myself, and after a lengthy trial I have no hesitation in saying that, from my point of view, it is immeasurably superior to any foreign makes."



WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 1917.

## TOURING WAYS AND MEANS.

VARIOUS schemes designed to meet the difficulties of touring in war time have been evolved, but none superior to that outlined in "The Era" of Dec. 27 last seems to have been suggested. The idea, it will be remembered, was to cut up the country into districts embracing the towns closest to each other, beyond which companies would not travel except under exceptional circumstances. The country, it was suggested, might be thus divided into districts—Scotland, three or four; the extreme northern counties of England, one; the north-eastern, one; the north-western, one; the Midlands, two; and the home counties, the eastern counties, the southern, and the south-western, one each. Wales might be divided into north and south. There would, of course, have to be an exchange of contracts, so that one company holding dates, for instance, at York and Plymouth, would exchange with a company booked at Bristol and Bradford, thus greatly restricting the necessity for travel without minimising their area of appeal.

It may be said that the conditions of touring have not proved so critical as many were led to believe, and instances of companies missing the Monday night engagement are happily rare. As a matter of fact, our "On the Road" columns show a list of companies larger by over thirty than that of this time last year—a fact probably due to the care taken by managers in getting their train connections and not to any relaxation in railway restrictions. There is, indeed, every reason to fear still more drastic alterations. Rolling stock will be used more and more extensively for military purposes, towns on branch lines being the greatest sufferers, and the necessity for preparing for contingencies is apparent.

Among the means employed to meet the difficulty are the stock season and the repertory company, and both systems are being followed with gratifying success in many parts of the country. But the custom of the travelling company has become so deeply rooted that it is difficult to go back to the stock days. Not so much is that disability due to the possible lessening of public patronage as to the resident manager, who, having become accustomed to rely upon the travelling attraction probably through his theatrical career, has learned nothing about the art of the producer, and faces the responsibility of staging a production with little confidence. His scene-docks, moreover, are often depleted, and to mount a play would in many cases necessitate expenditure that he is not prepared to undertake.

That cannot be said of Mr. J. H. SAVILE, who last week at the Paisley Theatre completed two years of repertory, during which he had put on a change of bill every week. Among the latest important towns to adopt the repertory system is Bath, where a season will be started on Monday next, the duties of producer being undertaken by Mr. KENNEL Foss, whose productions at the Savoy and the Little Theatre will be remembered by Londoners. Difficulties of transit, it may be added, are overcome in a simple but direct way by Mr. FRANK WEATHERS, who, in sending out his comedies, which do not require elaborate mounting, relies upon the resident manager to supply the scenery.

A similar scheme to that of "The Era," as will be seen by reference to a letter on another page, was brought by Mr. ERNEST DUTTRIDGE before the Provincial Proprietors and Managers of Entertainments Association at their annual meeting recently. Nothing seems to have been done up to the present to give effect to the proposal, but there can be no question that the time is ripe for some such arrangement. Obviously the pressing need is a round-table conference between managers, both travelling and resident, and if that meeting could be brought about the touring problem would be in a fair way of solution.

## AS YOU LIKE IT.

"George made a fine speech the other day," remarked an actor at the Greenroom Club. Whereupon his companion chimed in, "Did he, by Jove! Good old A. E.!"

Visitors to the Kingsway should make a special effort not to turn up late, as the action of "Ghosts" begins, not on the rise of the curtain, but several years before it.

That miracle has happened at last. The Double Event has come off.

"I'm longing to see 'Damaged Goods,'" exclaimed a matinee girl. "I'm told it's sweetly pretty."

I know a man who was talking to a friend the other day who declared that someone had told him that he knew a chap who had produced a revue without once postponing the first night.

I see that one critic refers to the King in "Hamlet" as "Hinden-burgian." He omits, however, to point out the Bethman-Hollwegian qualities of Polonius or the Walt-and-See Asquithness of Hamlet himself.

Met a dramatic critic the other day looking no end pleased with himself. "Why so perky?" I asked. "I think I've some right to feel distinguished," he answered. "Do you know, I'm the only critic in London whose notice of the new Vaudeville show didn't contain a pun on the title—'Cheep.'"

I understand that managers are likely in future to announce that shows which fail to please the public "must be withdrawn according to plan."

The Stoll Picture House is likely to do well. The management announce that the charge for "the whole floor" is 2s., and "the entire balcony" 9d.

TOUCHSTONE.

## THE MISSION OF DRAMATIC CRITICISM.

FROM A LECTURE, [BY J. T. GREIN.]

### WHY IT SHOULD BE MORE HIGHLY RATED.

OUR world neither appreciates nor understands the meaning of dramatic criticism.

The man in the street says: "Every body can write about a play." So he can.

In other words, dramatic criticism, from the point of view of the average reader in this country, is on a level with a report on a fire or a cock-fight. That, however, is not at all the object of dramatic criticism. Of course, the first thing written over the threshold of the critic's cell should be "BE JUST"; but the next is "OPINE BUT PROVE." A tyro can say that a thing is good or bad. To say why it is good or bad is the question.

For that, I hold, a critic must be as endowed as a judge on the bench—and even more. He must approach plays and players with absolute integrity of mind—if we except a leaning towards humanity. He should remember, in criticising, that what he analyses in an hour or a few hours has cost its creator perhaps weeks, perhaps months, perhaps years. He should remember that actors and actresses are, like everybody else, creatures of moods and creatures of hearts.

Do Actors Read Criticism? An actor may, on a first night, be very good or very bad. The why and the wherefore should be examined. Allowances should be made for nervousness, and the critic should have enough intuition for human nature to know what governs the circumstances: mood or want of capacity. He should remember that, in the morning, when the papers are opened, hearts beat. Don't believe what actors tell you when they say they don't read criticism.

One of our most famous dramatists said to me years ago: "You know, I never read criticism." I said: "I believe you." Two years afterwards, the question of producing one of his plays on the Continent arose, and I had occasion to discuss this with him. "Oh," said he, "I am glad you take an interest in my favourite play. I know that you have been practically its one and only defender." But he had not read dramatic criticism!

Well, then, actors and playwrights do read criticism. And what we write may raise them to the seventh heaven or may fling them down into the hell of despair. We have it on record that two sisters, gifted both, simultaneously committed suicide and left letters to the effect that want of appreciation had been responsible for their destruction.

Therefore, take it from me, when a critic who is really a critic writes criticism, it is his joy to leave (in Pinero's words) "Praise, praise, praise." It is his joy to tender a mature hand to the younger generation. It is his greatest joy, perhaps, to burn incense to an actor or an author whom he knows to be his detractor and his enemy.

Praise—And Smite! But it is also his duty not to be influenced by glamour and by praise. It is the privilege, but also the penalty, of those in high places that they must be prepared for strictures as well as eulogy. He who as some critics do—honey the great and tramples on the little is unfit to wear the toga which, in my ear, is implied by the words "dramatic critic."

"Praise, praise, praise." Yes. But also, "Smite, smite, smite." Heedless of obloquy, heedless of being cut, heedless of venomous attacks, smite, that from rookeries may arise model buildings.

Let me tell those who treat dramatic criticism lightly what is expected of a critic. He must be eloquent as an advocate, impartial as a judge, probing as a surgeon, curing as a doctor, consoling as a minister, inspiring as the conductor of an orchestra. It is expected from the critic not only that he shall tell plots and catalogue appraisements, but that he shall be ready on the spur of the moment, with his brain, his heart, and the point of his pen, to embrace the whole universe of human feelings.

He must understand the rhythm of poetry, the sound of romance, the beat of the heart, the power of sex, the ethics of morals of all sorts and conditions of men. His mind must be analytical, harmonious, judicial, discriminating, understanding, merciful.

The Impossible Task. Great gods! when I think of it, it seems to me as if the mission must be beyond human power. For you ask one man to compass in his judgment that whole thing which means Life.

So I beg of you not to speak lightly of dramatic criticism and of dramatic critics who profess that they love the theatre as one loves a woman, who profess that years of toil have not made them tired or weary, who profess that theirs is not mere journalism but the work of sowers who can make for good, raise public taste and be bannermen to lead those who believe in dramatic Art as a power in the nation.

Once more, do not be hard on the dramatic critic when you have heard him self-confessed—for his mission is beyond human power, and to have fulfilled but half of that which is expected of him means the devotion of a life-time.

J. T. GREIN.

## MUSINGS ABOUT "MA."

By MALCOLM SCOTT.

### CONCERNING THE LADIES WHO LET LODGINGS ON THE ROAD.

BROADLY speaking, the landladies I have met during the course of my professional tours up and down the country may be divided into two classes.

There are the landladies who begin by calling you "young man" and end up by calling you "dearie." And there are the landladies who begin by calling you "dearie" and end up by calling you "young man."

Of these two classes, the former is infinitely the preferable. It begins by respecting you and ends by loving you. The latter class begins by hating you and ends by doing you down.

There is another classification which may be employed: you may divide them into the fat and the lean. But this classification is less valuable, for the cubical contents of the human frame are no index to character. It is generally believed that stoutness is a guarantee of comfort, and leanness a sign of parsimony. Don't you fall into that error. Whenever, in the past, I have seen a stout landlady, I have said to myself, What made her stout? Her ill-gotten gains! Not by her own stoutness or leanness is the landlady to be judged, but by the stoutness or leanness of her lodgers.

#### Fairy Days.

In descending to write about "Ma," I should like it to be distinctly understood that I am nowadays so famous and so affluent and so firmly embedded in the top layer of Society that I have no longer anything to do with her. I go only to the very best hotels in the very best towns, drive about in the very best motor-cars, and feed on nothing but the very best swedes. However, I don't mind confessing that there was a time when my life was one long succession of Mrs. Bardells—and that it wasn't such a bad time, either. Ah, the dear old days when I used to cut my own bread for tea, and counted myself a king on kippers!

Yet I was a proud man, even in those days, and I remember one rebuff which I received in the Midlands, when I put up—without making arrangements ahead—at some apartments which I took on the recommendation of the sign in the window. The good lady, of course, asked me my name, and as it is a name that comes rollingly, if not trippingly, from the tongue, I gave it to her in full. "My name," I said, "is Malcolm Dalkeith Buccleuch Scott." She looked at me composedly for a moment, and then calmly remarked: "Very well, then, I'll call you 'Arry.'"

#### A Talkative Breed.

All "ladies who let lodgings" have one point in common: that is, garrulousness. They come up and talk and talk and talk, and just when you think they are really going, they turn round again and talk some more. Their chief topic of conversation is the other actors who have lodged with them from time to time—really good actors, these other actors, men with some money and some pretensions to looks, not a miserable worm like yourself. They are also very partial to recounting to you the whole of their family history, and, of course, their personal ailments often form the subject of an agreeable chat. Cerns and chilblains are considered particularly stimulating.

Another point which landladies seem to have in common is cold mutton. I don't know why it is, but once a landlady gets hold of a leg of mutton, she seems to form a passionate attachment to it, and clings on to it as though she couldn't bear to see the last of it. And here is a third ideal which landladies cherish in common: the ideal of a free pass. I remember one good dame for whom I secured a free pass when I was playing pantomime Dame in "Jack and Jill." She was one of the best-hearted souls I ever met, and the excitement of going to a theatre nearly ruined her health days before the event came to pass. She had only been once before in her life, she told me, and on that occasion she went to "see 'Amlick do a bleed.'" Thus, being brought up on tragedy, so to speak, I suppose the entirely different convention of pantomime rather puzzled her. Anyway, when I got home after the show, I found her on the doorstep, and by the beam on her face I could see that she had enjoyed herself.

"Well," I asked, "and how did you like it?" "Like it?" she replied. "Well, I should just think I did. Why, once or twice it was all I could do to keep from larfin' right out!" Mrs. Macbeth. Sometimes "Ma" has even higher ambitions than that of the "free pass." I remember one landlady—she must have been nearing her sixties and was of quite gargantuan proportions—who confessed to me that her great longing was to go on the stage. I asked her what sort of part she aspired to play, and that landed me! Before I knew it she was telling me to screw my courage to the sticking-place, and adding the information that Duncan was asleep and that she intended to dope his two chamberlains with wine and wasail. In short, she gave me pretty nearly the whole of Lady Macbeth's part, without letting me get a word in edgewise, concluding triumphantly with:—

"There—don't you think I ought to play Lady Mac on the stage?" To which my only criticism was—in

the words, more or less, of Macbeth: "It's going to be done, if it's absolutely got to be done, it had better be done d—n quickly."

Sometimes "Ma" is very strict. There are, of course, landladies here and there who refuse to take in actors altogether, though these are much scarcer than in the old days, thanks to the general enlightenment which has come with Board School education and so on. At other times you find that, while your landlady has consented to take you in, she will stand no hanky-panky, and considers it her right to rule you with a rod of iron.

#### A Sad Home coming.

I remember once rooming with a Roman Catholic fellow-actor whose morals were so unimpeachable that they were almost a by-word. He never used the mildest oath, or drank any but the mildest drink. Some of his friends, in fact, nicknamed him "Barley-water."

As I have said, he was a Roman Catholic, and on the morning after our arrival he rose early and crept out of the house to Mass on tip-toe, in order to avoid waking the still slumbering household. On his return he was greeted by a furious creature who, the day before, had not been able to do enough to make him comfortable and to butter him up generally.

"Nice goin' on!" she exclaimed. "Not another hour do you spend in this house."

"My friend stared at her blankly. 'But why on earth?' he protested. 'What have I done?'"

"Go on, innocent!" she cried. "What have you done! I'm not going to have no lodgers coming home at this time of the morning!"

And it was only after performing prodigies in the way of explanation that the good lady could be convinced of her mistake.

Which reminds me of another experience—an experience I shall never forget, because it began with one of the greatest compliments that have ever been paid to me—the compliment of being called too handsome!

I had turned up at my lodgings, where I had made arrangements to stay, and so did not expect any difficulty. But a difficulty at once presented itself, for I could get no farther than the front doorstep. There "Ma" barred my way.

"I'm sorry, sir," she said, "but I'm afraid I can't take you in after all."

She was quite respectful, but quite firm, and for a long time I could not get her to give any explanation. At last, however, she told me her reason. It appeared that the night before her daughter had unexpectedly come back from the country.

"So that you haven't a room any longer?" I suggested.

But no. She wouldn't tell a lie. That was not the reason. The reason was that her daughter was "so susceptible," and that I was—I blush to repeat it—"so handsome."

"I don't suggest for a moment, sir," she said, "that you would do anything to win the girl's affections—but you wouldn't have to. Believe me, she'd be on to you like a knife—and I don't want to take no risks."

#### Spelling His Beauty.

It was, of course, most inconvenient, and I was determined not to go tramping the town. I cudgelled my brains. Then, a brilliant idea occurred to me.

"Let me have two minutes alone in your parlour, and I can solve the difficulty," I declared. She wouldn't believe me, as they say in the song, but I was so pressing that she wonderfully gave me my chance. And in those two minutes I became another man. I gave myself a fierce moustache and a perfectly Tolstoyan beard. Then I flung open the door.

"What about it now?" I inquired. And she gave way. For a whole week I walked the streets of that town, a sight to behold with pity and with terror. But it was worth it. For I got my lodgings—some of the most comfortable lodgings I have ever been in—and the landlady's daughter (who was just about as ugly as I was!) never came within a stone's-throw of me, if she could help it.

#### Hearts of Gold.

Such are some of the comic adventures which have fallen to my lot in the course of my dealings with "Ma." But it would be a great mistake for the reader to infer from what I have said above that I do not cherish a very tender affection for this estimable lady, or that I have not cause to remember the acts of kindness and of charity which she has extended towards me on innumerable occasions.

Indeed, the "pro" has no better friend than Mrs. Bardell, and when he is beset by difficulties he may generally rely upon her to turn up trumps. I could tell of many actors who, suffering from pecuniary troubles, have been presented by their landladies with their fare to the next town—and when I say presented, I mean presented, free and without thought of repayment.

I know many more who have been nursed by them in sickness and who have been relieved by them of harassing bills for medicines and doctors.

Wherefore, let us honour "Ma." For of all jolly good "fellows" she is among the jolliest and the best.

MALCOLM SCOTT.

## OUR BROADSHEET.

By ALFRED BARNARD.

### SARAH BERNHARDT.

BRITAIN owes to Mr. Oswald Stoll the privilege of seeing Madame Sarah Bernhardt give the best of her genius during the past eight years. As he was the introducer of the Russian Ballet in the day before this latest and entrancingly beautiful form of art was discovered by society, so did he see with a strong artistic sense—and also with an eye to business—that the genius of Madame Sarah Bernhardt was not to go unrecognised in this country by the great theatre-going public.

To the Coliseum, therefore, came the great actress, and whether in short play, or extracts from some of her greatest efforts, such as "Phedre," "Lucrecia Borgia," or "La Dame aux Camelias," she enthralled hundreds of thousands of admirers. In a great democratic house such as the Coliseum she, for the first time, got right into the hearts of the people. To thousands she had hitherto been merely a name. To these Mr. Stoll made her genius not merely a name, but an actuality.

#### A Wonderful Worker.

And think of her work, too—think of the repertoire which she brought with her from Paris. Think of the strain, mental and physical, on a woman in the late sixties appearing twice a day; even were it for not more than thirty or thirty-five minutes at each performance. Good weather, bad weather, fog or no fog, often fighting against many physical disabilities, this great actress, with an ardour beyond compare, fulfilled her duty to the British public whom she often told me she loved as much as her dear Parisian friends.

There were many unforgettable moments during Madame Bernhardt's seasons at the Coliseum. Her patience at rehearsals, her consideration for her fellow-players, and her wonderful memory bespoke the great mental grip she had upon the life of the stage. Nothing at rehearsals escaped her eye. Every detail in the properties or the scenery, and particularly the lighting, had to be immaculate.

One always knew when Madame Bernhardt occupied the stage of the Coliseum. The wonderful electrical mechanism employed by Mr. Stoll in the working of the stage of this theatre usually ensures remarkable quiet. The presence of Madame, however, produced such a result that even the most hardened of stage hands or most energetic of stage managers were crushed into silence, and you could readily and truly hear the proverbial pin drop.

One little courtesy was always shown to Madame Bernhardt at these performances. The most palatial of the many fine dressing-rooms at the back of the stage was placed at her disposal and usually especially decorated for her. From the dressing-room to the scene in which she was to appear, a distance of nearly 90ft., was laid a Turkey red carpet over the immaculately clean stage, so that the feet of the tragedienne should not touch the boards which possibly performing elephants had previously trod. Both at the afternoon and the evening performance Madame Sarah Bernhardt's dressing-room was for the time being the centre from which the best of France in England radiated. Ambassadors, acions of a great Royal house in France, low comedians, merchant princes, journalists from all capitals, and society leaders by the score, all came to pay tribute to Madame.

#### A Royal Progress.

Madame Bernhardt's progress from her dressing-room to the scene in which she was to appear was a royal one in every sense. Supported on her right by her manager and on her left by her leading man, and attended by the other ladies and gentlemen of her company, she would be respectfully saluted by those on the stage. One of the most delicious moments on an occasion such as this was when Madame Bernhardt had finished her scene and was escorted back to her dressing-room by the redoubtable Mr. George Graves in his costume of "Dr. Koffo of Bond Street" and by Mr. Arthur Croston. Both artists were endeavouring to compliment each other in their own respective languages, with a result that beggars description.

Nothing touched Madame Bernhardt more than the national tribute to her on the occasion of her sixty-eighth birthday, in 1912. She once told me that amongst her most treasured possessions were the volumes containing the signatures of over 100,000 of her admirers in all classes of society.

#### An Angel of Charity.

Few aspects of Madame Bernhardt's life during her seasons at the Coliseum were more beautiful than those revealing her many gracious secret acts of charity. No matter what the appeal might be, big or little, Madame Bernhardt gave ungrudgingly. Indescribably touching were her visits to the Charing Cross Hospital and the French Hospital. Those who remember her visit at the Charing Cross Hospital to the bedside of a well-known actor, suffering from an incurable complaint, will ever be touched by the sweet and generous sympathy she showed to a fellow-artist.

Could anything, too, be happier or more graceful than the great artist's message on one of her visits to London when she said, "To the English people, j'envoie mon cœur—I send my heart?"

ALFRED BARNARD.



## VARIETY GOSSIP.

## The Busy B.

Mr. Alfred Butt, who has been attached to the Ministry of Food, assisting Lord Devonport for several months, will have, I hear, an important position in connection with the compulsory food rationing scheme which is steadily taking shape. One of our most prominent and popular amusement caterers, Mr. Butt may control our daily bread.

## A New "Life."

"Seeing Life," which lately had a run at the Oxford, is, I have just learned, been treated to a new edition, and sent on tour by Ernest C. Rolfs and Co.

## Miss Daisy Dorman.

Yesterday I met dainty little Daisy Dorman just out from the Nursing Home, where she has had to be an inmate for five weeks owing to her motor accident. Daisy had her right arm in a sling, but otherwise she was looking wonderfully well considering. She told me that she hoped to be able to resume work in a few weeks.

## James Our Ally.

James Carew, who played so strongly in strong sketches in the variety theatres for the past few years, and who is now "Under Cover" at the Strand, told me when I met him yesterday that he has arranged to take up a commission in the American Army.

## Who's Guilty?

Having tired of seeing material written by himself "incorporated" into productions other than his own, without leave or licence, Harry M. Vernon tells me he will in future submit the MSS. of his variety offerings to producers of West End revues, so that they may choose what dialogue and scenes they fancy prior to his use of them. There will be no need to credit him in billing matter any more than is now the case. It will, however, prevent the shock occasioned by meeting old friends so unexpectedly.

## A Big Cheque for Charity.

The salary paid to Miss Mary Anderson, who is in the second week of her engagement in "Pygmalion and Galatea," at the London Coliseum, has, I am told, been understated. The real sum is the highest ever paid to any artiste in this country, and the entire amount will be devoted by the famous actress to charitable purposes.

## A Handy Man.

A very handy man to have about the place is Mr. Thornley Dodge. The well-known entertainer recently, it will be remembered, undertook work as a labourer on the land at Mitcham, his wages going towards the keep of some disabled soldiers. And just lately he tells me he has been filling in a little of his spare time while at Mitcham as a coalheaver. Thornley loaded up from a barge thirty tons of black diamonds, thereby winning a wage of £5.

## Congratulated from the Bench.

A Birmingham manager, Mr. C. E. Williams, of the Empire, was congratulated from the Bench on Saturday upon his promptitude in forbidding a gesture on the stage to which exception was taken. Despite this, the gesture was repeated later in the week, and the police taking proceedings against Ray Kay, a fine of £5 was inflicted. Defendant's explanation was that he had been doing the same thing for three and a-half years without complaint, and he repeated the action quite unconsciously.

## Miss Vesta Tilley Indisposed.

Miss Vesta Tilley, owing to a severe cold and loss of voice, had reluctantly to cancel her engagement at the Hull Palace (Moss) after Thursday evening last week. No one regretted this more than Miss Tilley herself, for she had been appearing to crowded houses each evening. A very popular artiste in Hull, her latest song, "Six Days' Leave," had been received with much appreciation, and on the Monday she was presented with a handsome bouquet of red carnations. By the courtesy of Mr. G. W. Ashton, manager of the Hull Tivoli, the Harvard Sextette stepped into the breach, and gave their charming vocal and dancing scenes. On inquiry yesterday, I learnt that Miss Tilley was still too indisposed to appear. Her many friends and admirers will wish her a speedy and complete recovery.

## J. W. Tate Also.

Mr. James W. Tate ("That") has, I hear, also been unable to appear this week owing to indisposition. The many friends of the popular pianist-composer-comedian and his charming wife, Miss Clarice Mayne, will be glad to know that on inquiry yesterday I learnt that Jimmy is making satisfactory progress towards recovery, and hopes to be working again shortly.

## Is "It" the Shortest Title?

"It," a new revue, written by Donal Parsons—who is doing his "bit" in the Army—having been tried successfully at Kingston, &c., is to be brought to the London variety boards ere long. I assume that "It" is the shortest play name we know. What?

## "Postie" Recovers.

I am glad to hear at the time of Pressing that Neil Kenyon is rapidly recovering from his recent illness and operation.

## The Late T. E. Polden.

Mr. Thomas Ernest Polden, chairman of Messrs. Gale and Polden, Ltd., chairman of the Palace Theatre and the Palace Hotel, Ltd., director of the Glasgow Alhambra, the Victoria Palace, Ltd., and the New Grand Hotel, Birmingham, who died on Oct. 31 last, left estate valued at £13,807 17s. 10d., with net personalty £2,912 8s. 3d.

## Objectionable Songs.

The L.C.C.'s Theatres and Music Halls Committee reported at yesterday's meeting that their attention having been drawn to a song sung at a certain music hall, they caused a report to be made, and as a result they communicated with the licensee, who replied that he had given instructions that the singing of the song in question and of another song sung by the same artiste should be discontinued.

## The V.A.F. Chairman.

I was glad to hear yesterday that Mr. Fred Russell, the chairman of the V.A.F., who had been ordered to take a complete rest, and is recuperating in Cornwall, has already benefited considerably by the change of air. I hope soon to learn that he is quite fit again, and attending to Federation matters.

## Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.

The many friends of Mr. T. Aynsley Cook, manager of the Empire, Edinburgh, will be glad to learn that he is making sure, if slow, recovery from the illness from which he has been suffering for some time.

## Mrs. Frank Allen's Matinée.

Every seat in the Southend Hippodrome was occupied on Wednesday afternoon last week for Mrs. Frank Allen's matinee in aid of the Local Glen Hospital, and even standing room was at a premium. Mr. Allen and Mr. George Rhodes Parry (New Cross Empire) conveyed a splendid company from London, including Miss Camille Clifford, Hetty King, Liane D'Eve, Daisy Wood, Florrie Ford, George Formby, George Mozart, T. E. Dunville, J. W. Rickaby, Pimple and Co., and George Gregory. Other artistes on the spot who contributed to the success of the afternoon were Claid Goldin, Will H. Fox, Cliff Lester, and Lily Silver.

## Tribute to the Profession.

During an interval in the programme the Mayor of Southend paid high tribute to the willingness of the members of the variety profession to help in charitable work. He was proud that Mr. and Mrs. Allen were residents of the borough, for the town had been indebted to them on many occasions for their work on behalf of good causes. Replying, Mr. Allen said the general feeling of those members of the variety profession who were unable to fight was that they could do the next best thing—help those who could.

## £40,000 Raised for War Charities.

Mr. Allen also mentioned that since September, 1914, during which time about £40,000 had been raised for war charities by Moss Empires, Ltd., through the efforts of artistes who had taken part in entertainments he had organised, he had not met with a single refusal. It is anticipated that the proceeds of the matinee will reach nearly £200.

## A Gallant Lad.

The many friends of Mr. Gus Garrick will learn with regret of the death of his eldest son, Private Jack Garrick, Jack.



THE LATE PRIVATE J. GARRICK.

who was only nineteen years of age, went out with a draft to the London Regiment just before Christmas, and was killed on April 9. Before joining the colours he had appeared in "Mr. Manhattan," at the Prince of Wales Theatre, and also in Harry Day's revue, "Business as Usual."

## Palace Hospital Concert.

There was a large audience at the concert at the Palace Theatre (kindly lent by Mr. Alfred Butt) on Sunday evening in aid of the extension of Broadbent Park Military Hospital. Amongst those who contributed to the very enjoyable programme were Miss Violet Essex, Miss Evie Greene, Miss Billa Retford, Miss Margaret Cooper, Miss Myra Hess, Mr. Albert Whelan, Miss Ivy Shilling and Mr. Fred Leslie, Mr. Joseph Coyne and Miss Violet Lorraine in a selection from "The Bing Girls," Mr. Stanley Logan and Mr. Fred Gordon in "The Trolley and the Red," from "Vanity Fair," Mr. Billy Merson, Mr. Harry Weldon, Miss Blanche Tomlin, Miss Gwendolen Brogden, and the Palace Girls.

## Over £1,000 Realised.

In addition to these must be mentioned the band of the Royal Navy Depot, conducted by Chief Petty Officer Lowe; the Canadian Military Choir, conducted by Sergeant Lewis Roberts; and the Palace Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Herman Finck. During the evening there was an auction of several works of art, and the net proceeds will, I hear, reach upwards of £1,000.

## The Late T. B. Johnson.

It is suggested that the proposed memorial to the late T. B. (Tommy) Johnson, of the Scotch Stores, Cranbourn-street, shall take the form of an endowment to some theatrical or music hall charity, and a percentage of the subscriptions given to Sir Arthur Pearson's Hostel for Blind Soldiers. It is thought that this idea will appeal to countless professional friends who will desire to associate themselves with the memorial. Mr. Fred Russell, the manager of the London Hippodrome, is the treasurer, and Mr. Haddon Cave, 11, Idles-leigh-mansions, Buckingham Gate, S.W.1 hon. organising secretary.

The late Mr. Johnson, who was widely known and respected amongst members of the profession, was buried on Wednesday last at Nunhead Cemetery. Amongst those present were Mr. Fred Russell, Mr. John Le Hay, Mr. W. Rawlins, Mr. Will West, Mr. W. Thompson, Mr. B. Lucas, Mr. Haddon Cave, Mr. Tom Stuart, Mrs. Lillico, and many others. The numerous floral tributes included handsome wreaths from Mr. Fred Russell, Mr. Harry Tate, Mr. Le Hay, and Mr. T. Stuart.

## £2,500 Realised at Matinée.

The matinee held in the Alhambra Theatre, Glasgow, on Tuesday, April 24, the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service will benefit by the handsome sum of £2,500. Of this total, a prize drawing of rare gifts presented by friends realised £1,600. One of the prize-winners in the draw was Mrs. Joseph Wilson, wife of the popular manager of the Alhambra.

## Amateur Talent at Swansea.

Another "Amateur Artistes' Competition," promoted by Mr. G. H. Richardson, the manager of the Swansea Empire, took place on Saturday afternoon last, when twenty entrants formed the programme, the large audience being provided with voting papers, on which to record their impressions of the best turns. The function was a great success, and quite a lot of talent was unearthed.

## To Aid the Red Cross Fund.

The proceeds, which amounted to a substantial sum, were for the Swansea Chamber of Commerce Red Cross Fund, on behalf of which Mrs. Martin Harvey (Miss N. de Silva) made a moving appeal during the afternoon. The following were the prize winners:—1st, £5, Miss Hilda Freeman, comedienne, 377 votes; 2nd £2 2s., Miss Ethel Charles, comedienne, 315 votes; 3rd, £1 1s., Messrs. East, Martin and Thomas, instrumental trio, 290 votes; 4th, sack of potatoes, Mr. Sam Hay, Llanefly, comedian, 268 votes.

## Music Hall Boxing Championships.

Entries are still open for the boxing competitions to be decided at the second annual of the Music Hall Boxing Championships at the N.S.C., on July 7. The competitions are for 8st. 10lb. and 10st. 6lb. men, and are open only to legitimate music hall artistes. Already a number have entered, especially among those who are now serving in the Army; but there is still room for more. Valuable prizes will be given to the winner and the runner up, as well as to the losers in the semi-finals. Entries should be sent to the secretary, Mr. Phil Ashmore, 30, Bonerrie-street, E.C.4, as early as possible.

The function this year promises to be even more successful than that of last year. During the week the committee will meet. Amongst those who have already been placed on the programme are the Spies Midgits, Terry Twine, Jimmy Wilde and Carlton, Collinson and Ross, &c. The Ladies' Music Hall Guild are again taking the greatest interest in the event.

## Soldiers' Sunday Evenings.

The L.C.C. Theatres and Music Halls Committee have considered a proposal to open the Victoria Palace, Westminster, on Sundays for free entertainments to soldiers and sailors and nurses in uniform, and also a proposal to hold at the Eolian Hall, New Bond-street, a series of free Sunday evening concerts for soldiers and sailors in uniform. After communicating with Lieutenant General Sir Francis Lloyd on the subject, the committee had informed the licensee that no objection will be raised to the proposals provided that the following conditions among others are complied with:—That admission to the entertainments be restricted to soldiers and sailors and nurses in uniform; and that the staff and attendants employed at the Sunday entertainments be as far as possible volunteers, and not the regular staff of the theatre, and that in any case none of the staff employed on week-days do have any pressure put upon him or her to assist at the entertainments.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee of the L.C.C. have appointed a sub-committee, consisting of six members in addition to the ex-officio members to consider and report to them on all questions arising out of the Council's regulations with regard to Sunday entertainments.

## Music Hall Ladies' Guild.

The committee desire to thank Miss Daisy Dorman for her donation of 20s. (per box Lotie Albert), Miss Mabel Percival 10s., and Mr. W. Eke, 2s. The annual guineas subscriptions have been received from Miss Marie Dainton, Miss Rose Bancroft, Miss Hetty King, Miss Bella Burge, and Miss Jennie Hartley.

The Guild are still very short of ladies' and girls' warm coats and costumes, and would be very grateful if their supporters would help them in any way. Boots and shoes are always welcome. The Guild has received several letters lately from soldiers at the front, and some who have been wounded but are going out again, asking for comic make-ups, grease, paints, wigs, &c., to enable them to give concerts to their comrades. The Guild will be glad to get any of the things asked for so that they may send them out to France. Dr. Berkeley, Kensington, is thanked for attending one of our cases free of any cost to the Guild.

The Rotherhithe Hippodrome and the Camberwell Empire will, I hear, close from Monday next, reopening on August Bank Holiday.

## Gallipoli Heroes at Bristol Hippo.

Upwards of 300 men who stormed ashore at Gallipoli were present as the guests of the management at the Bristol Hippodrome on Wednesday last. The hall was crowded, and the gallant men were received with great enthusiasm on their arrival. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress occupied a box, and at the conclusion of Mr. Tom Foy's sketch his lordship went on the stage with the manager, Mr. F. Harrison, and a member of the Tom Foy company, and gave a brief address.

He reminded those present of the Gallipoli hazard of two years ago, the wonderful heroism of the men at the landing, and the subsequent operations ashore and ashore, and he referred to the interesting fact that beside him on the platform was Mr. Claude Dunbar—a member of Tom Foy's company—who had just been amusing them, who also fought at Gallipoli.

## Mesopotamia Comforts Fund.

Among the artistes who have promised to appear at the variety entertainment which the Duchess of Wellington is giving at Apsley House on the afternoon of May 15 on behalf of the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund are Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Miss Violet Lorraine, Miss Mabel Russell, Mr. Gerald du Maurier, Mr. Charles Hawtree, Mr. Harry Lauder, and Mr. George Robey, while Miss May Harrison and Miss Louise Dale have promised to play and sing. The Queen has signified her intention to be present. The entertainment will take place in the Waterloo Gallery at 3.15.

When I looked in at the Euston last week I found Murray Herriot, the popular manager here, listening to the overture. Nothing strange, perhaps, but he appeared to be enjoying the item so much that no one would have thought of disturbing him until it was concluded. Afterwards he told me that the new musical director, Mr. Ren-ton-Gardner, was arranging a series of especially good selections. The one given last week was a stirring march, "British Guards," which was composed by a member of his orchestra.

## THE PILGRIM.

## LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

## THE COLISEUM.

Lovers of high-class vocalism—always in strong force at the Coliseum—have given the heartiest of welcomes this week to Miss Mary Leighton, the brilliant soprano lyrique. On Monday, Miss Leighton gave four numbers, "Caro Nomo," from Verdi's "Rigoletto," and "Il Bacio," being rendered with wonderful fluency and ease; her beautiful voice being also heard with the greatest pleasure in Adam's popular ballad, "God Send You Back to Me," and "A Perfect Day," both very feelingly rendered. Signor Novelli, the Italian tenor, in operatic excerpts, and "Until," sung in English, must also have been very gratified at the warmth of his reception.

Miss Leslie Elliott, the popular girl at the piano, sings with humour and point, "One Never Knows, Does One?" and "Oh Cecil, I Shall Have to Call the Guard," and has a pretty sentimental number in "The Old Times are Coming Back Again." Welcome comedy is introduced into the programme by Sam Barton and his wonderful bicycle, and Baff, the lady, the bell-boy, and the waiter, are responsible for a very diverting and clever show, which includes some really remarkable somersaults and falls.

Bob Anderson's polo pony is certainly one of the most knowing equines we have ever seen. He indicates by pawing the floor the day of the week, the month of the year, and the time; does an addition sum; and in fact answers correctly by the method stated any question his master asks him. He is a little beauty, and performs his task with wonderful smartness and sureness, the act altogether being a decidedly attractive and greatly appreciated one.

Miss Mary Anderson and company in "Pygmalion and Galatea," complete a programme which is drawing packed houses twice daily to Mr. Oswald Stoll's fine house.

## THE OXFORD.

It is a well varied programme which Mr. Blyth Pratt is presenting here this week. At the top of the bill is Miss Marie Lloyd. Our Marie wears some beautiful dresses, and her inimitable rendering of "I'm Glad I Looked Smart," "Trust the Women," and "When I Was Young," were keenly enjoyed, her reception being of the heartiest. A very clever American artiste is Miss Alva York. Miss York is a comedienne who never fails to score, and her quiet manner, wonderful eyes, and altogether striking appearance are most effective in "She Had Such Inner Eyes," and an original number dealing with expectations not realised.

Wellman and a Baby Grand, assisted by Circe, is another act bound to score. Mr. Wellman's technique is perfect, and he was loudly applauded for his "Il Trovatore" in ragtime, after playing the real thing, and also his £50 challenge rag. Circe, who assists Mr. Wellman, is an energetic little lady, and the couple sing many duets, notably "The Billiken Man," and a topical "Washing on the Line" number. The Two Bobs are always sure of a welcome for their refreshing turn, and they are at their best in "I Want to Go Back," "At Johnson's Jubilee," "The Girl I Left at Home," and their "Four and Nine Pence" number.

Miss Dora de Morda, in three dances, the first, Early Victorian, the second, Russian, and the final, Rubenstein's "Valse Caprice," is delightful. Jackson and Jolly score chiefly with their dancing, the tambourine work, too, being well done; and Dorothy Arnold, the charming Australian mezzo-soprano, sings well three numbers, the last being quite original. The Martinecks, in comedy scenes, have a very funny act, the work of the lady as the dummy being particularly well done. The Four Vagabonds are always sure of a welcome for their harmonising comedy, and John Lester and company in some clever comedy, acrobatic and musical work get a round of applause; the Alaskas, in smart comedy acrobatic work, bringing the programme to a close.

## WILLESDEN HIPPODROME.

The popular revue "Odds On," presented by Mr. Walter Bentley, meets with the same success at this house as it did when presented in the West End. Amongst many clever artistes, Mr. Jack Shires, as the leading comedian, is highly popular. His comedy scenes, with Miss Gwen Clifford, a capital comedienne, were given. Praise must be given to Miss Evelyn Gordon for her graceful dancing and pleasing singing. Her rendering of a patriotic song, in which she is assisted by a smart chorus, being enthusiastically received. Mr. Bay Russell possesses a cultured voice, and his duets with Miss Gordon are a musical treat. Other members of the cast give valuable aid, and Messrs. Hyde and Cody's display of acrobatic dancing is wonderful.

Miss Florence Yaxmen gives a series of songs and their singers in character, and as a negress singing a lullaby proves herself not only a finished and clever actress, but a charming vocalist. Miss Yaxmen's turn was greatly enjoyed. As a new Gibson Girl, Mr. Henry Zill gives a smart female impersonation, his clear soprano voice aiding the deception and winning him much applause. Celest, with his slack wire act and balancing feats, completes a good all-round bill.

## CHISWICK EMPIRE.

Manager S. Persich has a brave array of talent this week. Of the first constellation is R. G. Knowles, breezy, brilliant, and bewildering in his feat of mirth. R. G. proves a host in himself.

Capt. Taylor brings along Lockhart's Elephants, who display their usual intelligence and indifference to such pigmies as compose an audience. Quite wonderful are they.

There is little in the way of bugling that Trumpet Sergeant Major Dixon cannot do. His posthorn and trumpet selections were splendidly done. Nor must Romy La Rocca, most dexterous of harpists, be forgotten for some exquisite musical excerpts. He wins the distinction of a triple "call," and deserves it.

A new style comedienne is the rôle assumed by Miss May Sherrard, who proves a great favourite. The recital of her matrimonial angling sends the house into screams of merriment. Great applause greets Miss Mabel Mann, a contralto of exceptional purity and delivery, who wins all hearts with "Comin' Thro' the Rye," and is equally successful in other selections from her repertoire.

Finally we get Fred Karno's new edition of "The Mummified Birds." It says much for the production that it goes as well as

ever. Billy de Voy as the bibulous swell, and Ernest Selig as the boy are as droll as can be imagined. Others in this clever combination are Almee Minister, Arthur Breton, Bert Royston, H. Daniels, J. Le Fra. The general interpretation leaves nothing to be desired, for "The Mummified Birds" is still a trump card.

## THE TERRIERS.

At the meeting on Sunday last Jim Obo officiated as W.T., Will Cody as V.T., Bruce Green G.C., Walter Norman W.L., Capt. De Villiers W.D., Ken Barton Y.B., Ben Obo sponsor, and Fred Day as organiser. A hearty welcome was extended to the president, Bruce Green, Syd Walker, Ben Whiteley, Guy Shanks, A. C. Astor, and Peter Ohlsen upon their re-appearance in the kennel. Mr. Hal Mack (Murphy and Mack) was initiated into the mysteries of the Order.

Terrier Jim Obo was presented with a P.W.T. Jewel for services rendered. The election of officers for May resulted as follows:—W.T., the president, Bruce Green; V.T., Capt. de Villiers; organiser, Fred Day. Terrier Ben Whiteley received the congratulations of the Order, upon his election as Worshipful Master of the Proseum Masonic Lodge.

The secretary will be pleased to receive parcels of old songs and music, for distribution amongst Terriers in the Army who are managing concert companies.

## "FOLLOW THE FLAG."

Moss Empires' revue, "Follow the Flag," Mr. William J. Wilson's latest conception, which has just enjoyed a month's run at Liverpool, will make its London debut at the New Cross Empire next Monday. It is a patriotic revue into which a wealth of comedy has been introduced by the author, Marriott Edgar, with Walter Passmore and a half-dozen other popular funmakers controlling the mirth department, including Leo Ray (of Ray and Zack), Wilson James, George Belmont, and Steve Frayne.

Rosie Raza, Grace Gordon, and Maude Francis head the cast of ladies, while Sydney Moorhouse, The Savoy Singers, and Eva Barnes' Twelve Rabbits have been secured to contribute their vocal and dancing specialties.

The scenes are laid in France and at home, and embrace many charming ensembles and novel effects. One particularly picturesque scene employs a mechanical quick-change, which in five seconds transfers the story from "Somewhere in France to Somewhere in Somerset." Follow the Flag" has been successfully treated by Herman Darewski, Charles Cowrick, and Harold Robe.

## V.A.P. AND I.

Latest additions to the list of donations received in response to the president's (Mr. George Graves) special appeal are:—Harry Tate, £21; Willson's (printers, Leicester), £10; Sam Curtis (collecting sheet), £7; Joseph McCabe (Victoria Hotel, Liverpool), £6 10s; J. W. Tate, £5 5s; R. Cousin (Glasgow), £5; Violet Lorraine, £5; Harry Weldon, £5; Malcolm Scott, £3 3s; George Graves (collected at Glasgow and Liverpool), £3; Alfred de Rothschild, £2 2s; Beattie and Babs, £2 2s; Nellie Wallace (per Fred Kitchen), £2 2s; J. F. Johnston (Glasgow), £2; Percy Honri, £2; Mike Johnson, £1 7s. 6d.; Marie Dainton, £1 1s; Fred Allandale (and £1 promised for next four weeks), £1. The total received up till Tuesday morning is £721 19s.

## VARIETY NOTES.

Mibo and Doris return to town next week to open at the Oxford.

Lucille Benstead, the talented Australian soprano, who has been laid up for some time, suffering from septic tonsillitis, has now quite recovered, and is appearing with her usual success this week at the Olympia, Shoreditch.

Mr. Victor Marmont is the sole representative for Miss Mary Leighton, the brilliant soprano, who is appearing at the Coliseum this week, and also accompanies her at the piano.

Miss Gertrude Gent, an accomplished musician, who was previously at the Shepherd's Bush Empire, has taken over the duties of conductorship of the orchestra at the Royal Hippodrome, Dover.

Mr. Samuel Lee, of the West London Variety Agency, who has been operating upon at the Gordon Hospital, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W., wishes to thank his numerous friends for kind letters and good wishes.

Mr. J. Richard Millet, the Liverpool variety agent, owing to increase of business, has taken extra offices at 4 and 5, Eaton-chambers, 64, Victoria-street, Liverpool. Mr. Millet wishes to inform his clients that he is not connected with the representative of a London agency with a similar name.

Dr. Walford Bodie's new show is proving a great draw. Assisted by the daring Mlle. La Belle Electrica, Dr. Bodie is introducing a big new electric act, and another new act entitled "Fun, Mirth, Magic, and Mystery on Board an Ocean Liner." Next week he returns to the Olympia, Glasgow.

We regret to hear of the death of Mr. J. W. Johnson, the well-known variety agent, who passed away on Friday last after four days' illness from pneumonia and pleurisy. The deceased will be buried to-day in the private family grave at Nunhead Cemetery at 2.30, leaving the house, 70, Upper Kennington-lane, at 1.30.

Miss Bobbie Burcott, the dainty and pretty singing and dancing comedienne, who made such a hit at the Bedford, Canning Town, the week before last, is repeating her success this week at the Southend Hippodrome, her opening day on the Variety Theatres Controlling tour. Both her numbers—one an entirely new one, and the other an old favourite—were loudly applauded on Monday.

Mr. Charles Coburn has received the following letter:—"The Bishop of London desires me to thank you for your letter, and to say how sorry he is, owing to the uncertainty of the posts just now, he has only to-day received it. You will understand, therefore, that it was not possible for him to send you a message for your meeting last night. The Bishop does hope that it went off well. He is most interested in the work you are trying to do to bring together the Church and the Music Hall people, and all he can say is, go on with it, and God bless and prosper you in it."

## THE STOLL PICTURE THEATRE.

A new step in the varied career of Hammerstein's beautiful Opera House in the Kingsway was taken on Monday, when it was reopened for the exhibition of motion pictures, under the name of the Stoll Picture House. A very decorative screen setting has been arranged, and in front are seated a grand orchestra of forty, which played delightfully throughout the performance. The choice of pictures on Monday was a happy one, and included a Famous Players film, "The Rainbow Princess," starring Ann Pennington; and a delightful Pathé production, "Sunshine and Shadows," both of which were reviewed in our columns when shown to the trade. The former is a stirring story of circus life, while the latter is woven round the pranks of the Cuddly Kid, Baby Marie Osborne, the most entrancing child in Pictorialland. A shorter, but intensely dramatic and topical Tannhauser, film is "For Uncle Sam's Navy," dealing with the intrigues of an American naval lieutenant, who guards his country's secrets by acting as a European spy. The introduction of high-class vocal music is to be another feature of this house, and Mme. Sara Melita (from the Royal Opera House, Malta) scored a great success in selections from "La Traviata" and "Rigoletto." The projection of the films is as fine as we have seen anywhere, the stereoscopic effects ensuring the pictures being seen to the very best advantage.

Mr. J. McCabe is the courteous manager here, and Mr. B. Turner (who brought over "The Birth of a Nation") has been secured by Mr. Stoll as the operator.

A secular concert, quite an innovation at the Royal Conny Theatre, Shrewsbury, was given on Sunday, and proved a huge success, the house being packed. The programme was a delightful and high-class one, and the artistes who contributed included Miss Ellen Craig (who took the place of Miss Annie Rees), Miss Jeanne Argent, contralto; Mr. James A. Vowles, tenor; Mr. Ceredig Walters, baritone; Miss Dorothea Walwyn, violinist; and Mr. Harold Scott, at the pianoforte. The concert was arranged with the co-operation and support of the St. John and British Red Cross Organisations of the United Kingdom, and by favour of Mme. Clara Butt, who generously consented that the Clara Butt Remond Fund should defray the payments to the artistes.

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#### MELODYLAND.

B. Feldman and Co.

"Far Away in Honolulu" and "I'm On My Way to Disneyland," two numbers just issued in professional form, are winners at once.

Miss Beattie Clifford has the first-named title in hand, and is working it in Hawaiian dress, to the accompaniment of hearty applause.

The second number is from the joint pens of Clifford Grey and Nat D. Ayer, and is quite in their best vein.

Sergeant W. T. Hughes writes from the internment camp at Delmen in praise of the regular parcels of music sent from Arthur Street, and encloses several programmes showing that the numbers are being well used. Revue numbers are much in evidence, "Bing Boys" songs, in particular, being greatly in favour.

From Alexandria, Captain B. E. Miller writes of the popularity of Feldman songs with the troops. "If You Were the Only

Girl," says the gallant captain, "creates the same furore here as in London."

The Two Rascals and Jacobson have taken up, and with considerable success, the new song, "Hoola Boola Lou" (Peter Bernard and Gitz Rice). At the Metropolitan last week the haunting chorus had to be repeated again and again. The same number is one of the features of a splendid instrumental programme at the Marble Arch Cinema, where Mr. W. L. Trydell renders it as a violin solo with much artistic effect.

An exceedingly dainty turn is that of Miss Marjorie Fulton, who appeared at Hammersmith Palace last week to deputise for O'Gorman Brothers.

Singing "My Hawaiian Sunshine," Miss Fulton displayed vocal powers and artistry considerably above the average, and well earned the hearty applause accorded her. Star Music Co.

For months now every post has brought Miss Hetty King batches of soldier songs, so much so, that eventually she decided

that songs of this class were to be tabooed henceforth, so far as she was concerned. A deal of tact and diplomacy were necessary, therefore, in order to induce the popular male impersonator to visit the Star Co.'s premises and hear a new number played over, for truth to tell, the title of this new number, "What Does a Soldier Care?" would have been enough to have kept Miss King well away from High-street. Mr. Harry Day, Miss King's business representative, had heard the song played over, however, and was enthusiastic as to its possibilities, and so without acquainting the lady with either the title or nature of the song, he succeeded in getting Miss King to hear the song played over. The song itself did the rest, and Miss King immediately capitulated, agreeing that, while henceforth she was not going to sing any more songs about soldiers, "What Does a Soldier Care?" was certainly the exception, and a number of exceptional promise. Miss King now has the song in actual study, and within a

very few weeks, music hall patrons will hear the number delivered in her own inimitable way.

The big chorus number in al fresco this summer is going to be "Take Me Back to Dear Old Brixton," the song which, although not issued until just prior to pantomime time, proved most successful in something like 99 per cent. of last season's Christmas productions. As a seaside item, therefore, "Take Me Back to Dear Old Brixton" will be sung this season for the first time, and concert parties featuring it will have the added satisfaction of knowing that they are working a proved success.

Miss Minnie Muir is at the Hippodrome, Poplar, this week, and winning golden opinions for her sympathetic rendering of the new semi-rag ballad, "If I Could Turn the Clock Back a Year." This is a number with that "somewhat different" touch that appeals alike to artists and audience.

Not only is Nora Delany the original

singer of "There's a Girl for Every Soldier," but to her must go the credit for giving a rendering of this rapidly becoming popular number that is at once novel and effective. The song, of course, is a comedy chorus one, but Miss Delany succeeds in characterising each verse, and extracting every ounce of comedy out of the clever lyric without in any way nullifying the catchiness of the melody. This week Miss Delany is featuring it at the Hippodrome, where it is being received in a manner equally creditable to both song and singer.

#### BALHAM HIPPODROME.

Miss Florence Yaymen opened at the Balham Hippodrome last week in her new act, "Different Types of Songs and Singers," and scored an immediate success. In the various songs she sang Miss Yaymen gave wonderfully real impersonations of the singers, changing her costume in view of the audience. Her first number, a Chinese oddity, was excellent, but Miss

Yaymen was, perhaps, at her best in her American revue girl number and coon caricature. So pleased were the audience that Miss Yaymen had to come back and sing her coon mother's lullaby song. Altogether, a very entertaining and original act. The remainder of the bill here last week (excepting Emrie and Ainslie, in a comedy restaurant episode, notable for some clever mimicry) consisted of Walter Bentley's "Odds On" revue, written by Harry Dent. In this Jack Shires is very funny as Bob Little, and Miss Gwen Clifford as Tiny Little also helps along the fun considerably. Evelyn Gordon and Bay Russell both sing well and dance, and with a good chorus and effective scenery and music the show goes with a swing throughout.

On Thursday some of the members of Mr. Robert Courtneidge's "Arcadians" company gave a concert to the wounded soldiers at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Needless to say, the visit was much appreciated.



## THE CINEMA COMMISSION.

## FILM CENSOR'S EVIDENCE.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., President of the Board of Film Censors, gave evidence at the 16th sitting of the Cinema Commission on Monday.

Mr. O'Connor said he found that his predecessor, Mr. Redford, had under him a body of four examiners. They sat in a small room and two films were exposed simultaneously. Each of these films was examined by two of the examiners, and when any question of difficulty arose, all four gave their opinion, and as a rule no film was passed which had not received the unanimous approval of the four.

The chief difficulty of the censorship arose from the number of what might be called "crock" films, which came mainly from America, and which had been brought into existence partly by the popularity of the detective story. On these films he found the examiners had already laid down some severe restrictions—as, for instance, that none of the methods by which thieves carry out their purposes should be exhibited. He had somewhat extended these restrictions, and had sent out a circular urging the trade to give as few films of this character as possible. There was, he thought, already a diminution in that form of film.

Very often a film might be for the most part unexceptionable, but there might be some scenes which were not permissible. In these cases the examiners eliminated the objectionable scenes and then saw the film again after the alterations had been made, and if necessary made further modifications.

In one case he had himself seen a film four or five times.

## HOME OFFICE CO-OPERATION

Mr. O'Connor thought the present position was not quite satisfactory, and that there should be closer co-operation between the Home Office and the Board of Censors. The Home Office should have the right of veto of the appointment of the President, and the President, if accepted by the Home Office, should have the co-operation of the Home Office in carrying out his decisions. He was bound to add that a letter of his to the licensing authorities had a very favourable reception, and most of them promised him their co-operation. He mentioned, as showing the confidence the Government put in their censorship, that every film which left the country was sent to the Board for examination lest anything prejudicial to their interests should be upon them, and nothing was sent out of the country without their approval.

## A BISHOP'S WARM APPROVAL.

Bishop Welldon, Dean of Manchester, said he could not associate himself with the general condemnation of the cinema. He thought the films were a great educational agency. Whatever faults there might be in cinema shows, they were better than the public-house, and formed an excellent relaxation of the monotony of industrial life. The serious increase of juvenile crime was due more to the lack of parental control than to the cinema.

## "THE SCARLET LETTER."

THRILLING PHOTOGRAPHIC ADAPTATION OF NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE'S FAMOUS NOVEL.

Production ..... Wm. Fox Stars ..... Mary Martin and Stuart Holmes Type ..... Drama Length ..... Five parts

A very fine screen presentation of an adaptation from Hawthorne's famous novel "The Scarlet Letter," projected at the Shaftesbury Pavilion on Wednesday last, was received with enthusiasm by the crowded audience present. The adaptor skillfully follows in its essentials the plot of the novel, the first of which is the refusal of an erring wife to disclose the name of her companion in guilt. The action takes place in the Puritan settlement of Boston, about 1650, when tyranny and bigotry, under the cloak of religion, were rampant in a stern and narrow-minded community. The penalty imposed for marital sin is the exposure on the breast of the letter "A" in scarlet, the wearer of which in such a society is indicated being the butt of every insult and humiliation describable. For seven years Hester bears her burden alone, except for the bright companionship of her little daughter, who is her mother's only joy and consolation. But the end of her grief comes at last, the father of her child, in a dramatic situation, confessing to a threatening mob his past relationship with her, at the same time baring his breast and disclosing the seared letter "A," which he has worn secretly and remorsefully for so long. Many wonderful pictures and lightning effects are shown, the production being altogether of the first order.

[See our Film Marking.]

## "SAFETY FIRST AMBROSIO."

INGENIOUS AND AMUSING TRIANGLE COMEDY.

Production ..... Triangle-Keystone Stars ..... Mack Swain Type ..... Comedy Length ..... Two Parts Release ..... June 4

This amusing two-reel farce was shown at the Shaftesbury Pavilion on Friday. The scene is laid in a rough Wild-West township, of which the leading character is an unworthy sheriff. Rapid riding and quick firing there is an abundance, in addition to a very fine diving act performed by a troupe of graceful girls, who are paying a professional visit to the locality. There are also many thrilling equine feats and exciting railroad incidents, producing a thoroughly entertaining half-hour.

## "NINETY DAYS."

A BEAUTIFULLY PICTURED FILM OF ROMANCE AND ADVENTURE IN SUNNY ITALY.

Production ..... Polifilm Co. Stars ..... Mary Corvin Length ..... Five parts

At the Shaftesbury Pavilion on Wednesday was screened by the London Independent Film Trading Co. a thrilling and finely-pictured story of Italy, entitled "Ninety Days." The plot concerns the search for a document proving the descent from the ancient family of the Duke of Raquin by Count Morelli. If this is not forthcoming within 90 days the estates will revert to the Crown, and when it is discovered by a scoundrelly couple that the precious papers are hidden in a vaulted chamber in a wood the excitement commences in real earnest. Needless to remark, villainy is thwarted in the end, but not before the dainties and high-spirited heroine, Mary (the Count's daughter) and her heroic admirer, Robert Corvin, have had many thrilling adventures. One is where Mary has to cross a gangway which revolves, and can be shut like a trap. When she is half-way across the trap closes and she is suspended, head downwards, in mid-air. Another is where Mary forms one of a human bridge that spans a yawning chasm. And there are many other excellently managed incidents. Miss Mary Corvin, in the chief female rôle, admirably realises the part of the resourceful and brave girl, and all the other parts are well played. The charming scenery with the ancient catacombs is a very attractive feature of this picture.

[See our Film Marking.]

## "HEARTS AND SADDLES."

GENUINELY FUNNY FOX COMEDY.

Production ..... Wm. Fox Stars ..... Tom Mix Length ..... Two reels

A rollicking farce was produced by the Fox Corporation on Wednesday last at the Shaftesbury Pavilion. It is a compound of screamingly funny situations, ingenious trick photography, and clever animal studies, one of the latter depicting the efforts of a timid person to mount a reluctant "moke," and also the animal's disinclination to go too near the edge of a precipice being delightfully natural and amusing. The film is certainly one of, if not quite, the best of the Fox comedies yet shown, it being given to the accompaniment of hearty laughter.

[See our Film Marking.]

## "ATTA BOY'S LAST RACE."

A TALE OF THE TURF, CONTAINING ONE OF THE MOST REALISTIC HORSE RACES EVER SCREENED.

Production ..... Triangle Stars ..... Dorothy Gish Type ..... Racing Drama Length ..... Five Parts

Shown at the Shaftesbury Pavilion on Friday as a substitute for "Alone in the World," the production of which was unavoidably postponed, "Atta Boy's Last Race" proved to be an intensely human and interesting film. Atta Boy is a race-horse belonging to a young sportsman who, owing to his losses on the turf, is faced with financial ruin, his only chance of retrieving his fallen fortunes being the success of his horse in the coming big race. To meet pressing liabilities he has to mortgage the animal before the race. Atta Boy is leading his field and looking all over an easy winner when he falls lame, and is brought back apparently a helpless crock.



Dorothy Gish in "Atta Boy's Last Race." Triangle.

Put up for sale after the race the horse fails to elicit a bid, and is "thrown away" for fifty dollars to the sweetheart of his late owner. The girl, fond and used to horses, soon has him fit again, and he is entered for another race. The contest is shown, and it must be said that it is one of the best, most realistic, and exciting scenes of the sort ever screened, rousing the audience to a high pitch of excitement as the horse, after being hampered, runs through his field and races home a gallant winner. This scene alone is certain to secure the success of the production. The acting is also of the first order.

## "ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE."

ADVENTURES OF A COUNTRY LASS IN A THEATRICAL ENVIRONMENT.

Production ..... Harold Weston Stars ..... Eve Balfour and Esme Beringer Type ..... Domestic Drama Length ..... Five Parts Exclusive Agents ..... Hagen and Double

An interesting photo-play, appealing to the intimate and simpler emotions of the audience, was shown at the Shaftesbury Pavilion on Thursday. The story shows how Lavender Laune, a young Devonshire girl, is enticed away from her home by Godfrey Daunt, a theatrical speculator,

who dismisses his leading lady, no longer in her first youth, and puts the country lass in her place. Her success on her first appearance is pronounced. After the show he offers her a contract for three years, at the same time passionately embracing her. The girl indignantly repels him, and tearing up the contract throws it in his face. Daunt, in desperation, seizes a revolver and levels it at her. In the struggle which follows the weapon goes off, and he falls to the floor. Thinking she has killed him Lavender flies from the house, and seeks refuge on a barge, where she is allowed to remain by the master. The discarded favourite has followed Daunt, and, seeing him dazed and helpless, she shoots him dead. Suspicion naturally points to Lavender, who is arrested, but her troubles are ended by the confession of the real murderer on her death-bed, and the story ends with a pretty scene depicting the marriage of Lavender with her rural sweetheart, and the realisation of her dreams.

Hop-hi, is arrested, and condemned to death. After numerous adventures and complications, Alvin returns, the condemned man escapes, and comes back to the home pursued by the police. He fires at Alvin and hits a clock, which, falling on Alvin's head, restores his memory. Escape being impossible, the brother shoots himself, and before expiring tells Alvin the whole story, reuniting by his death Edith and Alvin in a perfect love. Mr. Hobart Henley gives a competent portraiture as Alvin Marston, and the other parts are well played. Some fine interiors are screened, and the riot and fire in the Chinese quarter well managed; but some of the scenes, due either to bad photography or incorrect lighting, were not very distinct.

## "HELLO! WHO'S YOUR LADY FRIEND?"

ILLUSTRATING THE ADAGE THAT "MEN WERE DECEIVERS EVER."

Production ..... Homeland Stars ..... Lupino Lane Type ..... Comedy Length ..... Two Acts Release ..... June 4, 1917 Distributors ..... Globe Films, Ltd.

This all-British production, screened privately last week, shows the favourite comedian, Mr. Lupino Lane, acting the part of the philandering husband, whilst his wife is away on a visit to her mother. With his bosom friend he goes to Windsor Races, where they meet Miss Josie Clifton, the bright, particular star of the Palace, with whom the susceptible Mr. Pink is immediately smitten. Next morning Mr. Pink is suffering from a "head." When his wife arrives home they proceed to the pictures, and there, depicted on the screen, the indignant wife beholds her husband embracing Miss Josie Clifton. Mr. Pink explains that this is really his twin brother, and a novel and amusing situation is exploited where Pink has to pretend to be his own twin brother. Fate favours him, and the picture finishes with Pink restored to domestic bliss after a very close shave.

Mr. Lupino Lane proves a comedian of infinite resource and agility in the part of Mr. Pink. Miss Violet Blythe (Mrs. Lupino in real life) acted neatly and convincingly as Mrs. Pink, and Miss Winnie Delevanti gave a very engaging and happy portraiture as Miss Josie Clifton. The picture is well lighted, and in addition to the humorous element which predominates some fine scenes are depicted, the horse race at Windsor, amongst others, being clearly photographed.

[See our Film Marking.]

## "AMERICA AWAKES."

The Ashley Exclusive film, "America Awakes," which was privately exhibited before a crowded house on Thursday afternoon last, is a most interesting and stirring film drama, of exceptionally fine photographic quality. Particularly thrilling and splendidly managed are the pictures, which show a swarm of Mexicans swooping down upon the little town of Columbus in the night, shooting and killing the frightened people, setting fire to and pillaging houses, and carrying off the women. The little camp of soldiers come to the rescue, and there is a very exciting escape by motor-car. The story is a prophecy of the state of affairs which would follow were America unprepared for war. We see Congress frittering away its time in trifling measures to the exclusion of bills of national importance. Jefferson

Maynard is, however, thoroughly alive to the necessity of placing the country in a state of preparedness against possible foreign aggression, and is promised a certain amount of support in his endeavour to obtain legislation to carry his ideas into effect. His agents, however, undermine his work, and Senator Roger Wright, a wealthy mill owner, is strongly opposed to Maynard's Bill, his daughter, Monica, being convinced by her father's arguments, and sharing his opinions.

Richard Wallace, the young superintendent of Wright's foundry, is a young man with ideas, a thinker, and it is he who, after the aforementioned raid of the Mexicans, and the carrying of Maynard's Bill by an overwhelming majority, comes to the rescue of his motherland with his carefully thought-out plan. Concluding incidents show us what America is doing in the war of munition-making, and the training of her men—all most interesting pictures. The film throughout is a most engrossing and instructive one, and will undoubtedly prove a big draw wherever screened.

[See our Film Marking.]

## MOTION PICTURES IN COLOURS.

A new process which produces pictures in full colours by means of a simple attachment on any projector is outlined in "The Scientific American" of March 10. From this it appears that under the formal auspices of the American Museum of Natural History and the New York Academy of Science a presentation of new motion pictures in colours was given in the auditorium of the Museum in New York on the evening of Feb. 8, as well as a private showing in the Strand Theatre, New York, for representatives of the Press, from which it would seem that the perfection of motion pictures in colours and relief is an accomplished fact. A brief résumé of the history of the subject is given, including the two-colour motion picture process known as kinemacolor, exhibited by Mr. George A. Smith, of England, in 1907; and the Gaumont process exhibited in New York in 1913.

It is claimed for the latest development that it reproduces objects in motion and at rest in all the shades and colours found in Nature, without omitting any of the details present in the customary black-and-white pictures. It is also claimed that the new pictures display a complete absence of the objectionable colour fringe found in the earlier processes when fast-moving objects were portrayed. Further advantages claimed are simplicity and wide applicability, as the new film can be projected with any projector after equipping it with a simple and inexpensive attachment which in no way interferes with the handling of the ordinary film. Thus it is possible for small and large theatres to exhibit the new colour films. From a description of the technical process it appears that it is the well-known phenomenon of persistence of vision that causes these full-colour pictures to appear on the screen instead of a rapid succession of red-orange and blue-green pictures, as the construction of the attachment would seem to suggest. It is further stated that in the exhibition referred to, fast motion was portrayed such as that attained by a high-speed hydroplane, and no signs of fringe were noticeable. The colours, moreover, were remarkably lifelike, neutral shades, such as brown or grey, being faithfully reproduced in all the scenes in which they appear.

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It's to celebrate the beginning of Triangle's second year of successful trade shows.

In other words we've already had 52, and every one a success.

The films for this great 53rd show are fully up to standard.



Triangle Plays, 4, Gerrard Street, W.1

Two dramas, both typical of our 7th drama card, will be shown: Sir Herbert Tree in "The Old Folks at Home," from

Rupert Hughes' novel and Norma Talmadge in a wonder: "The Social Secretary."

Alhambra, Friday, May 11, at 2.45.

Write for tickets.

## "THE SIGN OF THE POPPY."

A WEIRD STORY OF REVENGE WHICH RECOILS ON ITS PERPETRATOR.

Production ..... Bluebird Stars ..... Hobart Henley Type ..... Drama Length ..... Five Acts Distributors ..... New Biocscope Trading Co.

In the above film drama, which was screened at the West End Cinema on Thursday last, we are introduced to Alvin Marston and his wife, returning from their honeymoon to find Alvin's father is the throes of death, an open package containing a blood-red poppy being found at his side. Hop-hi, the chief of a Chinese secret brotherhood, had, out of revenge, stolen Alvin's brother and reared him in a life of crime. This brother enters Alvin's motor-car and, overpowering him, changes clothes and throws him into the highway. His attempt to take his victim's place as Edith's husband fails, and, maddened, he murders

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## FILMLAND GOSSIP.

## Gaumont Films.

One of the surprises which the Gaumont Co. promised us recently is now public property. I am referring to the exclusive rights which the Gaumont Co. hold for the Oub comedies. The preliminary announcement in the company's advertisements last week has drawn an extraordinary number of inquiries, and, in fact, has quite exceeded the most sanguine expectations of the heads of the firm. Apparently the exclusive one-reel comedies featuring such a notability as Jerry will fulfil the wants of those exhibitors who have been waiting for something of the kind.

These comedies are all one-reelers, and will be released one a week—every Monday, commencing June 4. Six only are at present offered to the trade.

Speaking of comedies in connection with the Gaumont Film Hire Service throws our thoughts back to the excellent two-reelers which they have issued in the past, which have included a considerable proportion of L.K.O. productions. Arrangements for the issue of another dozen of these comedies are being rapidly brought to completion, and an announcement to this effect will be made very shortly. The next set is almost entirely composed of L.K.O. productions, and it has been the aim of the well-known firm to get as much variety in the way of artists as possible.

So many inquiries have been received for invitations to the trade show of Ultus that it has been found necessary to hold more than the usual number of shows.

The film will be screened in the private theatre at 6, Denman-street on May 8, 9, 10, and 11, at 2.30 p.m. each afternoon, as usual; and the additional shows will be given each morning of those days, commencing at 11.15 a.m.

## Phillips' Film Co.

The Phillips' Film Co.'s latest feature, the Five Part Bluebird, with Violet Mercier starred. "The Boy-Girl," has, we hear, already been extensively booked among leading London houses and by the circuits, and there seems no reason to doubt that it will in due course conform to the tradition established by successive Phillips' releases which have preceded it by setting up a new record total of bookings. The fact that each of the Phillips' films seems to go one better than the last is a remarkable tribute to the discrimination which marks the Company's buying policy. "The Boy-Girl" has still to be shown in the provinces, but dates for the various local Trade Shows will be announced shortly.

Birmingham exhibitors who have inquired as to the date of the local display of the Phillips' exclusive, "The Mysterious Mrs. M.," are informed by the Phillips' Film Co. that arrangements are being made for a Midland display at which both "The Boy-Girl" and "The Mysterious Mrs. M." will be screened. The date will be an early one, and will be duly announced.

Several changes of a far-reaching character are announced as imminent in

the staff of the Phillips' Film Co., whose representation in the provinces will shortly be strengthened by the addition of a number of highly experienced members of the trade. Several of them, indeed, have been connected with films from the early days, and are widely known to managers all over the country. The news can hardly fail to be a still further advance in the popularity of the Phillips' exclusives, which at no time have lacked the full support and encouragement of an organisation marked by exceptional efficiency and up-to-date news. Details of the changes in personnel will be published in due course.

## Triangle Plays.

Triangle Plays announce that they will hold a trade show shortly of "The Old Folks at Home," with Sir Herbert Free. This is the only other film in which Sir Herbert has played beside "Macbeth." In "The Old Folks at Home" he is seen as a Yankee farmer, who becomes a State Senator. Details of this trade show will be announced in our next issue.

We had been looking forward to Friday's Triangle trade show of "Alone in the World," and were much concerned to learn that there was no copy available for screening. Inquiring of the Triangle Publicity Department as to what exactly had happened to the film, we were told that it had been "torpedoed in Shaftesbury-avenue." Anyhow, the expected positive had not arrived, and there was no time to "dupe" the one copy in Triangle's possession.

On Friday next Triangle Plays will give a trade show of a Triangle drama entitled "Love in the West," starring Wilfred Lucas and Bessie Love; and also a Triangle Keystone, "Her Fame and Shame," in which Louise Fazenda is featured.

## Fox's Films.

The Fox Film Company, Ltd., is holding a trade show on Wednesday, May 9, at 11 a.m., when they will screen a charming story of mountain life, entitled "A Child of the Wild." This picture will be particularly welcome, as it features winsome Jane Caprice, who is known throughout the U.S.A. as the Fox Sunshine Maid.

The Fox comedy picture, "There's Many a Fool," will also be shown at the Fox trade show next Wednesday at the Shaftesbury Pavilion, in conjunction with "A Child of the Wild." Hank Mann, we hear, is at his best in this roaring burlesque. He plays the part of the Fool, and there will be roars of laughter at the performance of Carmen Phillips as the Vampire. Charles Arling also has a part in this comedy, which has a very strong cast. It is a three-reeler with not a bit of padding. This will be the eleventh comedy the Fox Company have issued up to date.

## Ideal Films.

To-day, when all eyes are fixed on Russia, there is a special interest in a picture which will deal vividly with its wonderful teeming life. Such a picture, we understand, is shortly to be shown to the trade by the Ideal Film Company, the title being "The Ruling Passion." The picture

is a drama of the grand passions, placed in a Russian setting. In it we are introduced to all kinds of wonderful Russian types, and arresting Russian scenes, and these together invest the film with an extraordinary interest. The trade show of this picture is to take place at the Shaftesbury Pavilion at the same time as that of "A Child of Nature," namely, on Thursday, May 10, at 11 a.m., and exhibitors who are on the look-out for an out of the ordinary picture would do well to interest themselves at once in this production.

The Ideal picture "Maak and Faces" is meeting with a very gratifying reception at all the houses where it is being shown. This is not at all surprising, for it is seldom that such a collection of artists of

## Brighton Pictures.

At the Palladium another batch of official War Office films, a fine exhibition of what our brave lads do, not omitting our airmen, are Mr. S. T. W. Johnson's novel this week. Pauline Frederick in "Ashes and Embers" forms another strong feature of the programme.

At the Court, Olga Petrova is to be seen in another magnificent achievement of the filming art, entitled "Extravagance." Mr. P. Tyler Wiggins having also secured a strong attraction to head his selections for the rest of the week in Marie Corelli's "The Treasure of Heaven."

At the Academy, Mrs. R. H. Buckley puts out a strong bill from Monday, including Charlie Chaplin in the Mutual



Miss Jackie of the Navy.

(Bolton's Mutual)

the English stage can be seen together, with the additional attraction of a story of such rare charm.

## Broadwest Films.

It is now just over two years since the Broadwest Film Company was formed, and in that short space of time they have gone right into the foremost ranks of big successful producers. That the directors of the company know human nature is proved by their shrewd selection of subjects and the intelligent production of the same, as was evidenced by the reception of past feature films. At the present time two big Broadwest films are being eagerly booked up by progressive managers, namely, "The Ware Case" and "The House Opposite."

Which have both earned unstinted approval from all who had the pleasure of witnessing the trade show productions. We now learn that Mr. Walter West is busy on the details of producing a film version of "Missing the Tide," a remarkably strong modern story, at present running in the London "Evening News."

comedy farce, "The Vagabond," and Pauline Frederick in "The Woman in the Case," from the drama of Clyde Fitch. From to-morrow Douglas Fairbanks in the Triangle production, "The Moral Fabric," will top the bill.

Mr. J. Hardiman at the Coronation gives "The Pride of a Name," three-act drama; also "Liberty" from Monday, and Albert Chevalier in "My Old Dutch" from to-morrow.

The exciting society drama, "The Ace of Hearts," is at the Theatre de Luxe from Monday, and the enthralling story, "The Bait," from to-morrow.

At the Princess, Jackie Saunders figures in the romance, "Gipsy Love," from Monday; also the exclusive drama, "The Price of a Sin," from to-morrow. "Little Miss Nobody" can be looked forward to with interest, as can "Bill's Narrow Escape."

## Boscombe Picture House.

A highly interesting film, "The Eternal Question," a "Metro" production, featur-

ing Olga Petrova, was the principal attraction on Monday at this popular house. A humorous cartoon, "The Indestructible Hat," was much enjoyed; and a Triangle comedy, "The Feathered Nest," proved very amusing and entertaining. As usual, there was a well-filled house, the diversified programme meeting with hearty applause. The orchestra performed with its customary excellence. On Thursday the screen version of Marie Corelli's "Temporal Power" is announced.

## Bristol.

At Wallace's Olympia the leading films are "Secrets of Society" (Fox), "East Lynne" (Fox), "The Fanatic" (serial), and "The Laughing Mask" (serial).

The magnificent production, "Comin' Thro' the Eye," featuring Alma Taylor, is the leading film at Livermore's Palace for the whole week. There are other attractive features, including Charlie Chaplin in "I am."

## To the Memory of the "Die Hards."

On Tuesday next a special all-day performance will be given at the West End Cinema Theatre, when the entire proceeds of the day will be devoted to Mr. G. E. Sexton to the fund for the endowment of a bed in the Middlesex Hospital to the memory of the men of the Middlesex Regiment, "The Die Hards," who have fallen in the war.

The day's performance will be under the distinguished patronage of Lieut.-Gen. Sir Francis Lloyd, K.C.B., M.V.O., D.S.O., Commander of London District; Col. Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Henry Dunn, Lord Mayor of London, and the Lady Mayoress; Major Louis Arthur Newton, Alderman and Sheriff; George Haywood, Esq., Sheriff; Edmund Victor Hustable, Esq., Under-Sheriff; W. A. Wayland, Esq., J.P. Mayor of Deptford; Sir George Welby (Mayor of Westminster); J. Fettes, Esq. (Mayor of Marylebone), and Col. W. Simpson, secretary, Middlesex T.F.A., all of whom will be present.

The brilliant programme includes the following:—Little Tich, Shirley Kellogg, Bransby Williams, Doris Barrington, Coram, Kitty Fielder, Jimmy Godden, Helen Mar, Eli Hudson, Nellie Corti, Rex Harold, Paula St. Clair, Lieut. Lawrence Anderson, Gwelda Tither, Robert Cunningham, Peggy Reeve, Eric Williams, Manuel L. Luna, Samuel Jacobs, and Victor Borlee. The performance commences at 2.30 p.m., and it is hoped that this deserving case will receive the fullest support.

## Free Films for the Wounded.

"May I," writes the Commandant of a certain military hospital, Canadian Army Medical Corps, to the Hepworth Company, "on behalf of the officers, N.C.O.s and men of this hospital, express to you our sincere thanks for your generosity and kindness in providing us with free films for the entertainment of the wounded soldiers here. I desire to express how very much we are indebted to you for your generous consideration. I can assure you how much these films are appreciated by the patients."

It is interesting to record that this letter is only one of many received expressing the same sentiments—and the sum total of it all points to the fact that medical men of to-day are convinced that, not only is the cinema a form of enter-

tainment, but also a necessity for men in hospital and camp.

In Aid of Blinded Heroes. Mr. D. W. Griffith has kindly offered to give Drury Lane and his great film "Intolerance" to Lady Arthur Paget for the afternoon of May 11, to aid her in her admirable scheme in the interest of blind soldiers. Queen Alexandra has graciously consented to be present on this occasion.

## Palace Cinema, Kentish Town.

One of the most interesting men we have met in the film business is Mr. N. J. Linwood, manager of the Palace Cinema, 197, Kentish Town-road, N.W., which we believe is the largest sole controlled hall in London. Everything in the theatre indicates the best qualities of management—initiative, discipline, organisation, thoroughness. The operating box and electrical rooms are amongst the finest we have seen, and one is impressed by the general air of efficiency in every department. Mr. Linwood believes that the cinema business has to be and will in the future be run with better business methods than are adopted by many showmen at present. For instance, he is particular in keeping his appointments. Much valuable time is often lost by renters and their staffs through negligence in this respect on the part of exhibitors. Mr. Linwood has a mailing list of 700 regular patrons, to whom he sends a tasteful folder with announcements of coming productions. He has frequent fire and panic drills, and has entertained thousands of wounded to the Cinema and tea. Last week he screened those fine films, "Milestones" and "The Light that Failed," and is this week showing "Ashes of Embers," with Pauline Frederick, and "The Rainbow Princess."

## Angel Picture Theatre, Islington.

For the last four years the Angel Picture Theatre, Islington, has been under the management of Mr. H. de Solla, one of the well-known theatrical family. He was at one time stage manager to Mr. Wilson Barrell. Mr. de Solla was introduced to the cinema business by Mr. Montague Pyke, and has made many improvements to the Angel Picture Theatre. His is an interesting personality, and he was selected for the management of this theatre out of 110 applicants for the position. Mr. de Solla has four sons doing their bit in the Army.

## Coronet Cinema, Islington.

Mr. A. E. Woodman, Coronet Cinema, Islington, started in the business as an assistant at the Picture Palace, St. Albans, of which he is now a director. He has been at Islington three years, previously being at Hoxsey-road Cinema. Mr. Woodman is a member of the Volunteer Motor Transport. Amongst his forthcoming features are "The Little Broadwinner," "The Gilded Spider," "Beau Brocade," "The Gay Lord Waring," "Tatterley," "Mr. Meeson's Will," "Ora pro Nobis," "East is East."

"Baby" Week. Mrs. H. B. Irving, who for some years has been an ardent worker at the St. Pancras School for Mothers, has written a film play entitled "Motherhood," in which the famous "Trilby" herself is featured. This will be shown during the "Baby" week in July, which is being held for the promotion of the health and welfare of

## Home, Sweet Home

Founded on the well-known Song.

High-Grade All-British Production.

## The Story.

A father and his son are closely linked together in the mutual bond of a great and lasting love and veneration for the Home of their fathers. The young man is imbued with a desire to build wealth and fortune in the great world. His father, knowing from a sad experience that the secret of happiness does not lie alone in wealth and success, endeavours to keep the young fellow at home with him on the farm, but unsuccessfully. The son successfully enters the Money Market. By his unerring judgment and shrewd dealing he makes money fast, a lady of fashion is attracted to him on account of his success, and promises to marry him upon the successful issue of a new scheme.

Meantime, in the old Home things go from bad to worse, until the old man is induced by a friend to once again enter the arena of finance, where in his younger days he had had much success, and one big failure. The fortune of the ring pits the father against the son, and each unknowingly works for the downfall of the other. The old man wins, the son is broken, his fine lover leaves him, but a fortunate meeting re-unites the people of the old home, and they go back together to a simple life of love and sweet contentment. "Mid pleasures and palaces, though we may roam, be it ever so humble, there's no place like Home."

The Title  
will fill  
your House.



The Film  
will delight  
your Patrons.

## Trade Show

ON

Wednesday, May 9,

AT

11.30 a.m.,

IN

West-End Cinema.

Invitation Cards

on application to



babies, and the central administration will be carried on by the National Baby Week Council, Kingsway House, Kingsway, W.C.2.

#### Grand Hall, Finchley.

The first cinema to be opened in Finchley was the New Hall about seven years ago, under the management of Mr. S. L. Hunt, with seating accommodation for about 150. After a while the present Grand Hall was erected by the proprietors, seating 800; and Mr. Hunt finds business so good that further extension is contemplated. He is shortly screening "Avalanche of Fate," "Boys of the Old Brigade," "Ora Pro Nobis," "Disraeli," "The Lost Chord," &c.

#### All-British Homeland Players.

The All-British Homeland films, which has controlled exclusively by Globe Films, Ltd., are adding to their list of players weekly. Winifred Delevanti, Violet Blythe, Blanche Bell, Charles Austin, Billy Mer-



MR. LUPINO LANE.

Starring in Homeland Film Production. son, the Brothers Egbert, and Lupino Lane are amongst the brilliant artists to be seen in these very excellent productions.

#### The Lure of the Movies.

Nearly all the comedians of note have been playing on the films. Jack Edge, the popular comedian from "Three Cheers," at the Shaftesbury, is the latest aspirant for screen honours. He is now engaged in a new production of the Homeland Film Company, which is entitled "How is Your Poor Wife?" and a private viewing of this film will shortly take place.

#### "All the World's a Stage."

Messrs. Hagen and Double announce that having ordered their posters for "All the World's a Stage" before the Prohibition Order, they can supply their clients with 12 and 6 sheet posters. They have also issued a beautifully-illustrated brochure of this magnificent production, with Miss Eve Balfour as leading lady and an all-star cast.

#### Tax on Cinemas.

In a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer the Bicolour Picture Theatre Co. states that of the dozen theatres controlled by the company only one has done a good trade since the imposition of the tax. Most of the houses cater for the poorer classes, and the company claims to be collecting £400 to £500 a week for the Government, while running some halls at a loss. Any further taxation, says the letter, would mean a further closing of halls, and a consequent loss of revenue to the Government.

#### A British Film Beauty.

To ensure the popularity and success of British films, says a writer in a popular Sunday illustrated paper, we must have film beauties as fascinating as Marguerite Clark, Mabel Normand, Fanny Ward, &c. "Have we got even one 'real' beauty?" As goes on to say, appearing in British films to-day? We believe if the photograph which we reproduce here were to catch this writer's eye, it would answer his question. Miss Winnie Delevanti has been



(Globe Films.) MISS WINNIE DELEVANTI. The Pretty Young British Film Actress.

described as the prettiest and liveliest young actress in British filmdom. It may be mentioned as a proof of her popularity that over three hundred Homeland films in which she is featured were shown last week in cinema theatres throughout the Kingdom. This accomplished young lady has also an enviable reputation for her charming work on the stage.

Exhibitors are reminded that the trade show of "Melting Millions" and "His Merry Mix-up," a comedy, will be held by the Fox Film Co. at the Shaftesbury Pavilion, Shaftesbury-avenue, on Wednesday May 2, at 11 a.m.

### CINEMATOGRAF TRADE COUNCIL.

The outstanding feature of the Trade Council meeting last Thursday was the discussion on the report of the Finance Subcommittee. The trustees had been asked to report on the Council's financial position, and to make suggestions as to the best means of providing funds for the future. Mr. Goodwin presented the report, and pointed out that in the sub-committee's judgment there were three possible methods of assuring an income. The first was the time-honoured "whip round," and the second method was that a day be set apart yearly as "Cinema Day" for the joint purposes of the Cinematograph Trade Benevolent Fund and the funds of the Censorship.

#### AN AMBITIOUS SCHEME.

The third method, and one recommended by the committee, was that the council take over from the Manufacturers' Association the British Board of Film Censors in its entirety. In this case the fees will be calculated on a basis which would provide an adequate sum to maintain the Censorship Board at a high level of efficiency, and also to support the Trade Council in its various movements for the betterment of the industry. It was thought that the exhibitors should bear the whole cost, but that the concerns and persons presenting the films for censorship should, in the first place, provide the money, and subsequently make a fixed charge to exhibitors for censorship.

Mr. Goodwin preferred a scheme which would not involve the simultaneous absorption of the Censorship Board. He was of opinion that a very substantial amount could easily be secured by voluntary subscription, and undertook quickly to raise the traders' proportion of, say, an annual sum of £2,000, to be devoted solely to the council. After an interesting discussion, it was decided to circulate the sub-committee's report among the members of the council with a view to effective consideration at the next meeting.

The sub-committee dealing with the thorny subject of model contracts has not yet completed its task. Mr. Montagu announced that it was "making progress." Thereafter the council listened to an explanation of the new National Service proposals given by Mr. Seddon, who detailed the course the negotiations had taken, and urged on the council the expediency of supporting the new proposals.



(Hagen and Double.) MISS EVE BALFOUR. "All the World's a Stage."

#### "THE GRIT OF A JEW."

AUGUSTUS YORKE (MR. POTASH) IN A JEWISH DOMESTIC DRAMA.

Production ..... Butcher's Star  
Type ..... Domestic Drama  
Interest must inevitably be aroused in a film with Mr. Augustus Yorke as the dominating figure, and the production of "The Grit of a Jew" at the West End Cinema on Tuesday morning proved that "Mr. Potash's" reputation as a film comedian is assured. He is Moses Levi, a seller of old clothes, whose son, Ben, is in love with Leah, a girl adopted by the old man. Ben is ambitious, and after obtaining a clerkship in a money lender's office, sees a chance of becoming manager. The chance is to become a fact, if he will marry the ward of his Christian master. There is a fierce struggle between his love and ambition, but the Jewish instinct to "get on" wins, even the family agreeing that there is no other way. Finally, by means of the shrewd Moses, who finds that the agreement drawn up stipulates no particular husband, Elsie, the ward, marries an old admirer. Ben is then free to marry Leah, and still realise his ambition.

All the players act naturally and well, but the whole life of the film revolves round Augustus Yorke, who plays imitatively in every situation. It is not alone in the more comic scenes that he excels, but he has an infinite power of conveying tragedy by gesture and facial movement. His performance is a sheer pleasure to witness.

The settings and photography are good. That indefatigable worker in the cause of charity, Mr. G. F. Sexton, had a very successful matinee at the West End Cinema last week, when, amongst the crowded audience, three hundred wounded soldiers were entertained. Mr. Sexton has, during the two years since he took over the theatre, raised no less than £4,650, which he has handed over to different charitable organisations.

### THE TRUTH ABOUT THE GERMAN CONSPIRACY

to dominate the world was revealed to the American democracy by a film. Made a year ago, evidently with the cognisance of high authority in America, the picture which has been happily entitled "America Awakes" is a most gripping and convincing through the picture theatres of that great country, creating a sensation by its revelations of German duplicity, that, had they been merely the product of a fervid imagination, would have imperilled the then existing good relations between America and Germany, or have led to the suppression of the film.

The film is now in England, and was shown this week privately by the Ashley Exclusive Film Ltd. La due to all Britain will have the opportunity of seeing the picture which helped to bring the democracy of America into line with Great Britain and her Allies. This story of German treachery is common to all countries where the hated Hun has planted his agents, but it needed the visualisation of German plottings in Mexico against America for the people to realise that the Hun is the enemy of the human race, and that the time after another of fiction, duping wealthy manufacturers, who are lulled into the belief that unpreparedness is a paying concern, and that all that the American eagle has to do is to flap its wings, and the "Von Weismann" and the rest of the German gang will become like little lambs.

How the eyes of one of these manufacturers, who is also a legislator, are opened is told in a series of thrilling scenes in New Mexico, where he and his son, to whom he has bequeathed his fortune, escape death at the hands of a crowd of Mexicans bribed to raid the borders with German money.

"America Awakes" lays bare the trickery and the treachery of the Hun spies in America. The veil that hid the Unseen Hand is ruthlessly torn off. The Ambassador and his spies are seen at their work inside the Congress, duping wealthy manufacturers, who are lulled into the belief that unpreparedness is a paying concern, and that all that the American eagle has to do is to flap its wings, and the "Von Weismann" and the rest of the German gang will become like little lambs.

Congress has discussed the necessity of being prepared, but German agents have been busy after the legislators from their support of a Bill to put the defence of the country on a proper footing. But the legislator who has experienced the effects of German treachery in New Mexico is in no mood to wait. He dashes to Washington, bursts into the legislative Chamber just as the Bill is about to be thrown out, makes an impassioned speech, and the Bill is saved.

America is saved, too, but not completely. An army cannot fight without arms. There is equipment, and this will take years. How by the genius of a young American engineer the problem of equipment is solved is a matter of absorbing interest to us, and forms one of the most fascinating sections of the film.

The daringness of the picture, made and exhibited while America was outwardly friendly with Germany, is only matched by the thrilling character of the scenes of plot and fight. Even were the picture devoid of the love-thread which gives the human touch to the story, it would grip from the start to the finish. But there is a hero and a heroine, and it is only fitting that the hero should receive all the reward he asks for, the love of a woman whose eyes have been opened to the conspiracy of the Huns against her country.

The picture rings true throughout its five reels. Watching it as its story is unrolled upon the screen, we forget that we are looking at a picture, seeing in our forgetfulness a reality that is so startling in its truthfulness that we awake, as it were, from a dream to realise that "America Awakes" is the truest piece of history written by the camera.

#### "THE MANXMAN."

Production ..... London Film Co. Stars ..... Henry Ainley and Elizabeth Riadon.

The long-awaited "Manxman" film was shown to a crowded audience at the New Gallery on Wednesday last for the first time, and it can be unhesitatingly said to be one of the best English productions we have seen. By the many readers of Hall Caine's famous novel the production will be viewed with an added interest. The pictures were all taken in the Isle of Man, and the scenes, which were previously left to the imagination, are now presented vividly and thrillingly on the screen.

The story of Philip's love for Kate, his brother's wife; his breach of the trust imposed in him by Peter, his overpowering ambition, and Peter's great repentance in order that the two lovers may marry, is convincingly told in some splendidly taken pictures, and superbly acted by an all-star cast, in which Henry Ainley figures finely as Philip, Miss Elizabeth Riadon acts exquisitely as Kate, and Mr. Fred Groves as Peter; and the rest of the company all work excellently together to secure success.

(See our Film Marking.)

#### Death of Mrs. Ernest G. Batley.

We regret to learn of the death of Mrs. Ernest G. Batley, the wife of Ernest G. Batley, the well-known film producer. Mrs. Batley, who passed away on April 22 after a serious operation, at the early age of 38, was the only lady producer in this country, and was greatly admired and loved by all who knew her. She was for many years connected with the British and Colonial Cinematograph Company, Ltd., and subsequently the New Agency Film Co., and was known throughout the trade. Mrs. Batley leaves a daughter 15 years old, who recently appeared with great success in the film, "The Boys of the Old Brigade."

#### WEST END CINEMA THEATRE

Coverly St., Piccadilly Circus, W. Sole Proprietor ..... G. F. SEXTON. Phone: Regent 2288. Daily 2 till 11 p.m.

#### THE INVASION OF AMERICA (THE AMERICAN'S HOME).

Also Parts 7 and 8 of the NEW WAR FILM SONS OF OUR EMPIRE, Showing our Tanks and Cavalry at Work With our Infantry in the Great Offensive. GRAND ORCHESTRA, Dainty Teas, LUXURIOUS SURROUNDINGS.

### COMING FILM TRADE SHOWS.

#### LONDON.

Melting Millions and His Merry Mix-Up (Fox), Shaftesbury Pavilion, 11 a.m. May 2.

The Man Who Failed (Pathé), West End Cinema, 11 a.m. May 2.

The World and a Woman and The Vagabond Prince (Ideal), Shaftesbury Pavilion, 11 a.m. May 3.

Love in the West and Her Fame and Shame (Triangle), Shaftesbury Pavilion, 11 a.m. May 3.

Home Sweet Home (Harma), West End Cinema, 11 a.m. May 3.

Child of the Wild and There's Many a Fool (Fox), Shaftesbury Pavilion, 11 a.m. May 3.

The Call of Duty (Kineto), 80, Wardour-street, 10.30 and 3 p.m. May 7, 8, and 9.

The Old Folks at Home and The Social Secretary (Triangle), Alhambra, Leicester-square, 3 p.m. May 11.

Utter and the Three Button Mystery (Gaumont), 6, Denman-street, 2.30 p.m. May 9, 10, and 11.

A Child of Nature (Ideal), Shaftesbury Pavilion, 11 a.m. May 10.

Scrooge-the Skindint (Ideal), Shaftesbury Pavilion, 11 a.m. May 17.

The Prodigate (Wardlaw), Scala, 11.30 a.m. May 10.

It is for England (Phillips and Carroll), Scala, Smallbrook-street, 11 a.m. May 3.

The Manxman (Jury), Picture House, 10.45 a.m. May 4.

Atta Boy's Last Race and Safety First Ambrose (Triangle), 144-5, Suffolk-street, 11 a.m. 3 p.m. May 4; 3.30, 6.30 p.m. May 6.

The Scarlet Letter and Hearts and Saddles, Scala Theatre, 11 a.m. May 8.

Chase Me, Charlie, and Prince of Grand-stark (Film Booking Office), Imperial Cinema, 11 a.m. May 4.

Bohemia and Her Father's Station (Fox), The Pavilion, 11 a.m. May 8.

The World and a Woman and The Vagabond Prince (Ideal), Carlton Cinema, 11 a.m. June 6.

A Child of Nature (Ideal), Carlton Cinema, 11 a.m. June 13.

Scrooge-the Skindint (Ideal), Carlton Cinema, 11 a.m. June 20.

Gloriana (R. C. Buchanan), La Scala, Sauchiehall-street, 11 a.m. May 2.

If My Country Should Call (St. Mungo), Sauchiehall-street, 11 a.m. May 2.

The Manxman (Jury), Picture House, 10.45 a.m. May 2.

Pillars of Society (Triangle), 182, Tron-gate, 3 p.m. May 4.

World Films (Gaumont), Gaumont's, Mitchell-street, 11 and 2.30 p.m. May 3.

The Isle of Life (St. Mungo), La Scala, Sauchiehall-street, 11 a.m. May 4.

Triangle Programme (Triangle), Green's, 182, Tron-gate, 2.30 p.m. May 4.

Melting Millions, His Merry Mix-Up, and A Bon-Bon Riot (Fox), Cinema House, 10.45 a.m. May 7.

The World and a Woman and The Vagabond Prince (Ideal), La Scala, Sauchiehall-street, 11 a.m. May 8.

Mr. Meeson's Will and Her Soul's Inspiration (St. Mungo), Cranston's, Renfield-street, 11 a.m. May 8.

A Child of Nature (Ideal), La Scala, Sauchiehall-street, 11 a.m. May 15.

Scrooge-the Skindint (Ideal), La Scala, Sauchiehall-street, 11 a.m. May 22.

The Scarlet Letter and Hearts and Saddles (Fox), Grand Assembly Rooms, 11 a.m. May 3.

America Awakes (Ashley), Picture House, Briggate, 11 a.m. May 4.

The Half Breed (Triangle), Bond-place-chambers, Infirmary-street, 11 a.m. 2.30 p.m. May 4.

The World and a Woman and The Vagabond Prince (Ideal), Theatre de Luxe, Kirkgate, 11 a.m. May 15.

## BRITISH EMPIRE FILM BOUGHT ENSURE FORTUNES.

Write to 7, Great Newport Street, London, England, W., For details of Latest Productions, which include many well-known Theatrical Successes.

A Child of Nature (Ideal), Theatre de Luxe, Kirkgate, 11 a.m. May 22.  
Scrooge-the Skindint (Ideal), Theatre de Luxe, Kirkgate, 11 a.m. May 29.  
LIVERPOOL.  
The Missing Bank Notes and Her Circus Knight (Triangle), The Scala, Lime-street, 11 a.m. May 2.  
It is for England (Phillips and Carroll), Cinema, Liverpool, 11 a.m. May 4.  
Melting Millions and His Merry Mix-Up (Fox), Scala Super Cinema, 11 a.m. May 8.  
Grip of Jealousy (General Film Renting), Palais de Luxe, May 8, 11 a.m.  
Atta Boy's Last Race and Safety First Ambrose (Triangle), The Scala, Lime-street, May 9.  
The World and a Woman and The Vagabond Prince (Ideal), Palais de Luxe Cinema, Lime-street, 11 a.m. May 22.  
A Child of Nature (Ideal), Palais de Luxe Cinema, Lime-street, 11 a.m. May 29.  
Scrooge-the Skindint (Ideal), Palais de Luxe Cinema, Lime-street, 11 a.m. June 5.  
MANCHESTER.  
Melting Millions and His Merry Mix-Up (Fox), Fox Private Theatre, 28, Deansgate Arcade, 11 a.m. May 3 and 4.  
The Missing Bank Notes and Her Circus Knight (Triangle), Triangle House, 3, Mary-street, Deansgate, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. May 3 and 4.  
The World and a Woman, The Vagabond Prince and A Child of Nature (Ideal), Salford Cinema, Chapel-street, Salford, 2.30 p.m. May 13.  
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.  
Bohemia and Her Father's Station (Fox), Fox Private Theatre, 20, Westgate-road, 11 a.m. May 2.

The Breaker (Film Booking Office), Gaiety, 10.45 a.m. May 2.  
The Mysteries of New York and A Scoundrel's Toll (Triangle), Star Buildings, 11 a.m. May 2, 3, and 4.  
The Manxman (Jury), Picture House, 10.45 a.m. May 4.  
The Scarlet Letter and Hearts and Saddles (Fox), Fox Private Theatre, 20, Westgate-road, 11 a.m. May 9.  
NOTTINGHAM.  
The Dummy (Greta), Scala, 11 a.m. May 2.  
SHEFFIELD.  
The Half-Breed (Triangle), Electra Palace, Fitzalan-square, May 2.  
SWANSEA.  
The Manxman (Jury), Carlton, 10.45 a.m. May 2.  
AN ENTERPRISING SHOWMAN.  
We recently had a very interesting conversation with that enthusiastic showman, Mr. Clarence Abrahams, who is proprietor of the Electric Palladium, Camden Town, and managing director of the companies owning the British Cinema, Harrow-road, and the Electric Coliseum, Harringay. Mr. Abrahams was introduced to the cinema business by Mr. J. D. Walker, who found him his first site at Harringay, and wonderful business is being done there. Mr. Abrahams is interesting himself in a big film venture, having powerful financial backing, for which he will probably undertake the British management. The proposition is, briefly, to build or acquire large theatres in important cities to run a series of big productions. Each film would continue to be screened until its drawing power began to show signs of exhaustion, when its place would be taken by another.

## FILM MARKINGS.

TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION. Reference No. 6-10.

| Released.   | Name.                          | Brand.           | Description.   | Length. | Marks. |
|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------|--------|
| May 24      | Scenes in South Africa         | Urban            | Interest       | 470     | 8 1/2  |
| June 14     | Animal World-Series 11.        | Kineto           | Interest       | 465     | 8 1/2  |
| June 18     | His Coming-Out Party           | Joker            | Comedy         | 965     | 8 1/2  |
| June 18     | The Wrong Mary Wright          | Victor           | Comedy         | 945     | 8 1/2  |
| June 18     | Transatlantic Screen Magazine. | Transatlantic    | Interest       | 885     | 8 1/2  |
| June 21     | Why Uncle?                     | Nestor           | Comedy         | 960     | 8 1/2  |
| June 21     | Honourably Discharged          | Imp              | Drama          | 960     | 8 1/2  |
| June 21     | Mr. Fuller-Pep-An Old Bird     | Powers           | Cartoon-Comedy | 810     | 8 1/2  |
| June 21     | Pays Him a Visit               | Kineto           | Interest       | 885     | 8      |
| June 21     | Potted Plays No. 1             | Kineto           | Interest       | 885     | 8      |
| EXCLUSIVES. |                                |                  |                |         |        |
| May 28      | Dar-es-Salem                   | I.V.T.A.         | Interest       | 2000    | 8      |
| June 4      | Hello! Who's Your Lady Friend. | Globe            | Comedy         | 2000    | 8      |
| Rel. now.   | America Awakes                 | Ashley           | Drama          | 5000    | 8 1/2  |
| June 14     | Hearts and Saddles             | Fox              | Comedy         | 2900    | 7 1/2  |
| August 15   | The Scarlet Letter             | Fox              | Drama          | 5000    | 8 1/2  |
| Sept. 3     | The Manxman                    | Jury             | Drama          | 8000    | 8      |
| Not known   | Tired Business Man             | Picpure          | Comedy         | 1000    | 7 1/2  |
| Not known   | A Villainous Pursuit           | Picpure          | Comedy         | 1000    | 7 1/2  |
| Not known   | Spring Cleaning                | Picpure          | Comedy         | 1000    | 7 1/2  |
| Not known   | He Did It                      | Picpure          | Comedy         | 1000    | 7 1/2  |
| Not known   | The Connecting Bath            | Picpure          | Comedy         | 1000    | 7 1/2  |
| Not known   | Ninety Days                    | L.I.F.T.         | Melodrama      | 5000    | 7 1/2  |
| Not known   | The Third Witness              | L.I.F.T.         | Melodrama      | 3000    | 7 1/2  |
| Not known   | All the World's a Stage        | Hagen and Double | Drama          | 5000    | 8      |
| Not known   | Snow White                     | Walkers          | Comedy         | 1000    | 7 1/2  |
| Not known   | The Road to Love               | Jury             | Drama          | 5000    | 8      |
| Not known   | The Ring of the Borgias        | Jury             | Drama          | 4000    | 8 1/2  |

## SOME TITLE! SOME FILM!

We have now shown to the trade the super all British production

## ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

(Men and women merely players).

"The opinion of all present was unanimous that this film surpassed any British Production in setting, photography and story."

Follow the lead of the Shaftesbury Pavilion who have booked same, and secure for yourselves this money spinner.

Please note Provincial Trade Show Dates as follows:

City Picture House, Lime Street, Liverpool, Tuesday, May 8, at 11 o'clock sharp.

Deansgate Picture House, Manchester, Friday, May 11, at 11 o'clock sharp.

Picture House, Briggate, Leeds, Tuesday, May 15, at 11 o'clock sharp.

## HAGEN AND DOUBLE,

Telephone No. Regent 5734. 29a, Charing Cross Road, London, W.C.2.

Also at 144, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow.

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### Startling Announcement of Next L.I.F.T. TRADE SHOW.

THE FILM FEATURES THOSE TWO INIMITABLE COMEDIANS

ROBERT LEONARD AND AUGUSTUS YORKE, The L.I.F.T., 4, Denman Street, W.



## PROVINCIAL NEWS.

(Continued from p. 10.)

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hoop manipulator; and Siema, card expert.

Boats, The Chemists, 17, Corporation-road.

**VINT'S PALACE.**—P. Vint's Theatres, Ltd.; M. D. Mr. Leon Vint; R. M. Mr. E. G. Giffey. "The Heart of a Woman" is being played here. Boats, The Chemists, 192, High-street.

**GNOLL HALL.**—The Gnoll Picture and Variety Co., Ltd.; G. M. Mr. Vivian Aldridge; Jim Nolan; Kit O'More and Jim Soto; and pictures. Boats, The Chemists, 56, Wind-st.

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**LANCASTER.**

**GRAND.**—L. & M. Mr. Stanley Rogers; A. M. Mr. E. C. Howitt. "The Heart of a Woman" is being played here. Boats, The Chemists, 192, High-street.

the Royal Harry Four, a capital combination of harmonising comedienne and dancers; neatness and dexterity mark the whirling skating of Les Videos, who also introduce a juvenile exponent in Leon; and Bar, knockabout comedienne of merit; and Dainty Doris, comedienne, added to the general applause.

**HIPPODROME.**—M. D. Mr. Fred Williams; R. M. Mr. Harry Lyons; Asst. M. Mr. H. Marshall Hancock. A great reception was accorded George Leashwood on Monday, and this eminently popular comedian added to his reputation by new contributions. Torsion submitted his audience with wonderful and skilful jugglery; Brook's Cycling Maniacs submitted their astonishing and clever feats; Phil Bransby's character studies were smartly done; Ted Waite made a diverting comedian; Edith Pink rendered her items brightly; and a live entertainment came from Gray and Richards.

**THEATRE ROYAL.**—L. & M. Mr. C. W. Watson. Miss M. Albert Chevalier in "Ole" the first three nights of the week. Boats, The Chemists, 162, The Parade.

**LEEDS.**

**GRAND.**—P. The Theatre and Opera House Co., Ltd., M. D. Mr. John Hart; G. M. Mr. Wynn Miller; Mus. D. Mr. R. W. Watt. "The Tiger's Cub" is being played here this week by Taylor Platt's and Sam Liversey's company. Sam Liversey is powerful as Bill Sharkey; Elsie Hewitt is fascinating as The Cub; and other clever members of the company are Paul Gill, Aylmer J. Williams, and Ethel Edwards.

**ROYAL.**—P. Mr. Francis Laidler; R. M. Mr. Charles Bush; Mus. D. Mr. Thomas A. Coomer. "The Love Made You Mine" is proving an attraction here. A capable company includes Claude Alingham; Leslie Beaufort; Harry Rose; Carrie Ellis; Katey Badgley; and Margaret Hobart.

**QUEEN'S.**—P. The Palace Theatre Co. (Leeds), Ltd., a strong attraction here is "The Sins of the Fathers" in repertory. These favourite players are presenting these popular plays, "The Beggar Prince," "The Sins of the Fathers," and "The Shaughraun."

**EMPIRE.**—P. Moss Empires, Ltd.; R. M. Mr. H. L. Rouché; Mus. D. Lieutenants Parkin. "The Three Cheers" is presented here through the medium of Harry Day's fine company of players. Harry Day's company includes Harry Lauder's part; and other popular entertainers are Alick Lauder, Daisy Bindley, Peggy Yeoman, Gerald Williams, Jimmie Leslie, and Kitty Curtis. The augmented orchestra is in charge of Mr. Charles Moore.

**EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.**—P. Moss Empires, Ltd.; M. D. Mr. Frank Allen; R. M. Mr. T. Aynley Cook; Mus. D. Mr. James Howarth. "The Irish Boy" is a sequel to "The Irish and Proud of It" is played in rollicking style by Joe O'Gorman and an excellent all-Irish company, which includes Nora O'Gorman, Bessie O'Gorman, Harry O'Gorman, Andrew McManus, Geo. McLusky, Kitty Carrickford, Mary Sweeney, Mary Dawson, and others, all of whom combine in a very enjoyable performance under the musical direction of Mr. William Leigh. Apart from the revue, the clever pantomimists Geo. Willie West and McGinty present their lively sketch, "Jerry and Co. Builders"; Lily Byron proves herself a singer of pleasing song; and the Cockney comedian, Will Colman, appears with a sketch in his latest burlesque, "Papering a House."

**PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.**—P. The Pleasure Gardens Theatre Co., Ltd.; M. D. Mr. E. C. Potter; R. M. Mr. Mark Blythe. "The Heart of a Woman" is being played here. Boats, The Chemists, 12, Rendvous-street; 61, High-street.

**METROPOLE.**—P. The Newcastle and Gateshead Theatres, Ltd.; G. M. Mr. Stanley Rogers; A. M. Mr. E. C. Howitt. "The Heart of a Woman" is being played here. Boats, The Chemists, 192, High-street.

**COLISEUM.**—L. Mr. D. Forbes Russell; G. M. Mr. Sidney Greenhill; R. M. Mr. Percy A. E. Brown. "The Heart of a Woman" is being played here. Boats, The Chemists, 192, High-street.

**KING'S THEATRE.**—P. & M. Messrs. A. B. and J. Wright. This week (once nightly), W. W. Kelly's company in "A Royal Divorce." Boats, The Chemists, 24, Hamilton-street.

**ROYAL.**—Closed till August Bank Holiday.

**GRAND.**—P. Hanley Theatres, Ltd.; M. D. Mr. G. E. Thompson; R. M. Mr. Albert Bulmer. "The Heart of a Woman" is being played here. Boats, The Chemists



It was announced last week that Mrs. W. W. Kelly (Miss Edith Cole) was willing to give a complete set of the Encyclopedia Britannica to any local institution desirous of receiving such a gift. Before the day was out the Birkenhead Borough Librarian had decided that the Central Library was the most fitting place for such valuable books of reference.

News has just been received of the death of Mr. William Clark, who has had an interesting theatrical career extending over a quarter of a century. A Londoner by birth, he had travelled far, seen many strange countries and cities, and had been connected with many kinds of stage enterprises. His first engagement was with the late Dan Leno, and he had travelled all over North and South America with theatrical companies. He managed a "Mme. Sans Gêne" tour, also a tour of "Old Heidelberg," and was the producer of Sæns and Nelson's musical plays. Amongst the prominent parts he played were Cayley Drumme in the "Second Mrs. Tanqueray" on tour, and the Abbe des Chazelles in "Adrienne Lecouvreur." Mr. Clark was also the producer of over a dozen pantomimes at various theatres.

A capital musical entertainment was provided by the members of the Harrison Frewin Company at the New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, on Wednesday afternoon, when the house was filled with wounded soldiers from the local hospitals. Votes of thanks were heartily accorded to the company, and to Mr. Kelly, to which Mr. Harrison Frewin and Mr. Lewis James responded.

---

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CALLS FOR MONDAY,  
MAY 7, 1917.

## THE LONDON HIPPODROME.

Rehearsal at 11 a.m. for "Zig-Zag."

**EMPIRE, FINCHURCH PARK.**  
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for—  
Company as booked.

**EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.**  
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for—  
Company as booked.

**EMPIRE, STRATFORD.**  
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for—  
Zetta-Mor, Sisters Reeve, John Lester and  
"Hills."

**EMPIRE, CARDIFF.**  
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for—  
Company as booked.

**BROADWAY T., NEW CROSS.**  
Picture entertainments.

**ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKES  
NEWINGTON.**

**EMPIRE, SWANSEA.**  
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for—  
Merzoff, Fred Maitland, Victor and George,  
Marti-Trio, Molly Wells.

**EMPIRE, NEWPORT.**  
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for—  
Frascopa, Dora Lyric, Wilson and Ernie,  
Jack Silvani.

**PANOPTICON, CARDIFF.**  
Picture entertainments.

**OLYMPIA, CARDIFF.**  
Rehearsal at 12 noon for—  
J. H. Greener, Olive Temple, Cissie Nadene.

**EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.**  
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for—  
Company as booked.

**EMPIRE, GLASGOW.**  
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for—  
J. H. Wakefield, The Flying Banvards,  
Bliday and Fox.

**COLISEUM, GLASGOW.**  
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for—  
The Royal Merry Four, Mafuzing Manchou,  
Gipsy, Nona Grey.

**EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.**  
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for—  
Company as booked.

**GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.**  
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for—  
Gus Garrick, Five Jokers, and company as  
booked.

**NEW PALACE, SUMMERHILL,  
BIRMINGHAM.**  
Rehearsal at 12 noon for—  
Arabella, Allen, Doris Delma, Montague  
Biggs.

**EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.**  
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for—  
Wasey and Ramsey, Jack Sterzel, and  
Company as booked.

**OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.**  
Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for—  
100 Years Ago, Cruikshanks, Amy Evans,  
Schreck and Peckival.

Artists' Business  
must be absolutely  
free from vagrancy.

Special provision has been made at each Theatre for the exhibition of loose photographs. Artists are invited to supply these to the Manager on reaching the Theatre, and they will be returned in good condition at the end of the week.

Applications for Engagements by Artists or their Agents must be addressed to Head Office. State salaries required for (a) West End, (b) Suburban, (c) Large, and (d) Small Provincial Halls. A list of existing engagements must be enclosed. Artists are requested to accredit only one Agent at the same time and to notify the Company immediately of any change of Agents.

Artists desirous of submitting their Acts at private auditions should communicate with Head Office.

Mattresses are held every Wednesday at the Empire Theatre, South Shields, at which new acts may be presented. Applications should be made to the Manager at the Theatre.

Engagements of Artists are subject to cancellation if the following requirements are not observed:

(1) Matter for bills and programmes, blocks, specimens of pictorials (if any) and a list of engagements with (a) in the case of singers, copies of the songs and patter, (b) in the case of sketch proprietors copies of the scripts as licensed and copies of the Lord Chamberlain's Licence; must be sent to Head Office three weeks at least before opening.

(2) Artists must attend rehearsals, no deputes being accepted.

(3) Press Matter and Photos. Star Artists, Feature, and Specialty Acts are requested to turn in the Press Publicity Department (Representative, Mr. Alfred Davies) with any interesting matter pertaining to their turn, with latest photos (non-copyright), for newspaper reproduction, three weeks before opening.

Important Notice to Artists and Agents. When an Artist or Act having previously played at the Moss' Empire Tour, is re-engaged for further dates, the contracts will be sent to the Agent who negotiated the last engagement, unless notice has been received from the Artist that this is not desired.

Contracts and Orders. No contracts or orders for services or goods will be recognised unless upon an Official Form issued from Head Office and signed by the Managing Director or Business Manager, and the Company concerned may refuse payment for all services rendered or goods supplied except in accordance with this notice.

Invoices must be sent to the Theatre or Department to which goods are supplied, but monthly statements must be sent to Head Office.

The Company on whose behalf Contracts or Orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Company will not hold itself responsible for loss or damage to Manuscripts, Songs, etc., submitted or sent to it for any purpose.

Mr. F. DE COURVILLE, Managing Director, and Mr. F. DE COURVILLE, Assistant to Managing Director and Booking Manager for the London Hippodrome.

Mr. ERNEST WIGHTON, Booking Manager for the Tour.

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Smashing records everywhere despite the war.

Still the greatest and most sensational draw in the vaudeville world.

ALL ATTACKS REPULSED.

Narrow-minded doctors and others tried to ruin my reputation in the High Courts, London. Result, a huge failure.

Five hundred educated hooligans, at the instigation of two well-known Professors, tried to assassinate me at the Coliseum, Glasgow, because I had radically cured over 200 cases of Paralysis, discharged from the Glasgow Infirmary, including the Western Infirmary. Result, failure.

The Kaiser tried to murder me on the high seas because he thought I had copied his hirsute appendage, despite the fact that the whole world knows the Kaiser copied my moustache. Result, failure.

Combined results, One huge advertisement.

A few questions I would like my enemies and my jealous friends to answer—

What is the aim and desire of all great showmen?

Who is the only Freeman of the City of London in the vaudeville world?

Who is the vaudeville artist who is a member of the Royal Society of Arts, London?

Who is the vaudeville artist who is a Doctor of Medicine and Master of Surgery (hon. degree and diploma) of Barret College?

Who is the vaudeville artist who is a Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Science, and certified (diploma) electro therapist of Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery?

Who is the vaudeville artist who is a Doctor of Science, Arts, Letters, and Literature (diploma), London?

Who is the author of the great "Bodie Book," "Harley the Hypnotist," stage stories, &c.?

Whose stories appeared with great success, along with Dr. Conan Doyle's, in Pearson's novel magazine?

Who gave the Admiralty two great inventions, viz., a mine destroyer and an electric submarine-searchlight?

Who gave the War Office a special bomb, and his home as an emergency hospital?

Who received letters of thanks from the War Office and the Lords of the Admiralty?

Who volunteered for base hospital work, and offered two complete sets of X-ray apparatus free to the Government?

Who volunteered again, while in India, to go to Mesopotamia as an X-ray expert, and offered all his electric apparatus free to the Government?

Who was made an Hon. Senior Lieutenant of the Bristol City and Marine Ambulance Corps?

Who has cured hundreds of cases of Paralysis discharged from all the leading hospitals in Britain, Africa, India, and Ceylon?

Who was the hero of the ill-fated "Arabia," sunk by the Germans in the Mediterranean Sea?

Who was the last but three to leave the sinking vessel after seeing over 900 souls safely off the doomed ship?

Who returned to his cabin four times to get coats and wraps for the ladies while the ship was sinking?

Who gave a performance at the Teatro Manoel, Malta, without any apparatus or props, the takings being over £54?

Who was picked up by a trawler, and was three nights and three days in a dreadful storm without food or water?

Who was brought home by the brave Captain Bleakie on board the "Caledonia," and encountered a great tidal wave?

Who was the vaudeville artist, on arriving home with only what he stood in, got his new show together and started work in three weeks?

Who is the greatest draw in the vaudeville world?

Who is at present the greatest showman in the world?

Modesty prevents me from answering the above questions.

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CALLS FOR MAY 7, 1917.

THE LONDON COLISEUM.

Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for:

Mary Anderson and Co. in "Pygmalion and Galatea," Wilkie Bard, M. Tittel-Bruno and Co. in "Bracelets," Ward, Hood and Bourne Trio, De Bussé, Bioscop.

STOLL PICTURE THEATRE, KINGSWAY. (London Opera House.)

Cinema Season.

THE NEW MIDDLESEX.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:

"Frolics," Fred Conquest and Co. in "What a Dog," Bioscop.

THE HACKNEY EMPIRE.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:

Dalmers's Table Circus, The Real McKays, Mikado Family, Nellie Wigley, Alexander Prince, The Ketos, Weston and Lynch, Bioscop.

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMP.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:

Halma, Illids Glyder, Waters and Morris, Jack Shires, Lawrence Barclay, The Biff Girls, The McKays, Hymack, Bioscop.

THE CHISWICK EMPIRE.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:

"The Bing Boys are Here."

WOOD GREEN EMPIRE.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:

Leona and Vince, Miss Mabel Mann, The Four Swifts, De Breams, Manual Vega, Kenna Brothers, Lily Hartley, Bioscop.

CHATHAM EMPIRE.

Rehearsal at 12.30 p.m. for:

Daisy Sloan, Bruce Green, Jason and Montgomery, "Reveland," Bioscop.

And in association with the above—

THE ALHAMBRA, LONDON, W.C.

"The Bing Girls are There."

NOTE—Artists engaged at any of the above theatres should send photos for display in front of the house to Manager, to be returned at the end of the week.

NOTE—All sketches played at the above theatres must be licensed by the Lord Chamberlain, and a copy of the licence, together with script as licensed, must be sent to the Stoll Office at least 21 days before date of performance.

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## CAMBERWELL PALACE

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JACK SHIRES  
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6.30 and 9.

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"WHAT'S HE  
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FRED KITCHEN

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6.30 and 8.50.

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S. W. WYNDHAM  
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LILIAN BYRNE  
MART & PEP  
VERA ROCHDALE  
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JOE ELVIN & CO.

## WOOLWICH HIPPODROME

6.30 and 8.50.

Tel. WOOLWICH 69.

"ALL WOMEN,"

featuring

LILY LONG  
BETTY BALFOUR  
and  
SISTERS SPRIGHTLY  
DUNCAN & GODFREY  
DORINOS  
ALEXANDRA  
DOLCIE CARIELLO  
MATINEE THURSDAY at 2.30

## CROYDON EMPIRE

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CLO D'ARTE  
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JOHN McNALLY &  
GWENDA WREN  
in "THE BORSTAL BOY."

## ISLINGTON EMPIRE

6.30 and 9.

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"GO TO  
JERICHO,"

featuring

GEO. BASS  
and  
WILL BEANLAND

LEE EPHRAIM presents  
AN ORIGINAL COMEDY,  
"THE MEANEST MAN  
ON EARTH."

## POPLAR HIPPODROME

6.30 and 9.

Tel. EAST 64.

WALTER HOWARD  
presents

"THE  
STORY  
OF THE  
ROSARY."

## WILLESSEN HIPPODROME

6.30 and 9.

Tel. WILLESSEN 49.

WISH WYNNE  
NELLIE  
WALLACE  
MORNY CASH  
VIVIAN FOSTER  
PYNKIE WHYTE  
JOE ARCHER  
CHIC DE NELL  
and  
KITTIE FRANCIS  
& CO.

## BALHAM HIPPODROME

6.30 and 9.

Tel. STREATHAM 1708.

"NIGHT  
LIGHTS,"

featuring

BILLY CARYLL  
NITA JARCHE  
JACK STIRLING  
CARLTON  
AIMEE ROBERTS  
VALDA  
Mdme. EIRNNA

## PUTNEY HIPPODROME

6.30 and 9.

Tel. PUTNEY 2002.

NELLIE  
WALLACE  
MORNY CASH  
GREAT WIELAND  
CHAS. HANBURY &  
JOHNNY SCHOFIELD  
TOM E. HOOD  
COLLEY & SCOTT  
LILY LANGTRY  
MAY PHILLIPS

## ROTHERHITHE HIPPODROME

6.30 and 9.

Tel. HOP 1134.

CLOSED

FOR THE

SUMMER

SEASON.

## RICHMOND HIPPODROME

6.30 and 9.0.

Tel. RICHMOND 1694.

EDIE VENO  
SYD SYDNEY  
TOM WOOTWELL  
THE ENZERS  
RAE DUO  
GLASS & GRANT  
LILY FLEXMORE  
FENNER & SULLEY  
MAHAME BEN  
BOJAMAA

PRODUCTIONS (CROYDON) & (RICHMOND), Ltd.

## CROYDON HIPPODROME

6.30 and 8.45.

Tel. CROYDON 1444.

Messrs.  
HORSFIELD  
& WOODWARD  
presents the  
GREAT  
FARCEFUL COMEDY  
"THE  
STRANGE  
ADVENTURES  
OF  
MISS BROWN."

MANAGING DIRECTOR

MR. CHARLES GULLIVER

TO WHOM ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED.